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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the governor sign Senate Bill 17-43, which would allow beneficiaries of trusts and retirement fund programs to take legal action in behalf of trusts or the NMI Retirement Fund, into law?

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Direct Salvo

President Obama launches a rare direct attack on the Republican presidential field.

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Survivor

Albert Brown, the oldest survivor of Bataan Death March, dies at 105.

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Private Concert

With 16 Grammys and several defining hits, Beyonce has nothing to prove.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

AFTER 7 YEARS OF PUSHING FOR INSTALLATION

Tinian cancels ILS project

»\$3.5M diverted to other projects

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

After seven years of pushing for the installation of an instrument landing system on Tinian, the Tinian Legislative Delegation finally gave up on the project, diverting the \$3.5 million allocated to the project to other pressing needs of the island's airport and seaport.

Sources: FBI agents seized firefighter's car

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have seized the car of a firefighter who had refused to undergo a lie detector test as part of the investigation into the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, according to sources.

Sources said the former Department of Public Safety firefighter had sold his 2003 Toyota Camry before leaving Saipan on Aug. 6. Federal agents, sources disclosed, confiscated the car late Friday afternoon from the new owner

RELATED NEWS

FBI: Firefighter had right to refuse polygraph test.

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for evidence gathering.

"The new owner did not hesitate to give it [car] to the federal authorities," one source said, adding that it is not clear as of Monday whether the FBI had returned the vehicle to the new owner.

Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) confirmed yesterday that the delegation cancelled the ILS project on July 21.

The move was in consultation with the Tinian municipality, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and its partners, according to the lawmaker.

An ILS is a ground-based instrument approach system that guides an aircraft in approach-

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When asked for comment yesterday, FBI special agent Tom Simon said they can't confirm or deny ongoing investigative steps unless or until charges are filed.

Sources said that FBI agents and Department of Public Safety investigators had earlier asked the firefighter if they could search the

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DPS has yet to identify remains

The Department of Public Safety is still trying to determine the identity of the human bones found in Kagman III, even as family members strongly believe that the remains belong to Ricardo Muña Quitugua, who just turned 72 last week.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said yesterday that there is no update yet on the identity of the remains, but that DPS is trying to get the service of Guam medical examiner Aurelio Espinola. Tarkong said he is not certain whether Espinola is available.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said that DPS has not provided him any update about the investigation.

Elbert Quitugua and his sister, Anicia Tomokane, told *Saipan Tribune* that the family strongly believes that the remains belong to their uncle, Ricardo Muña Quitugua.

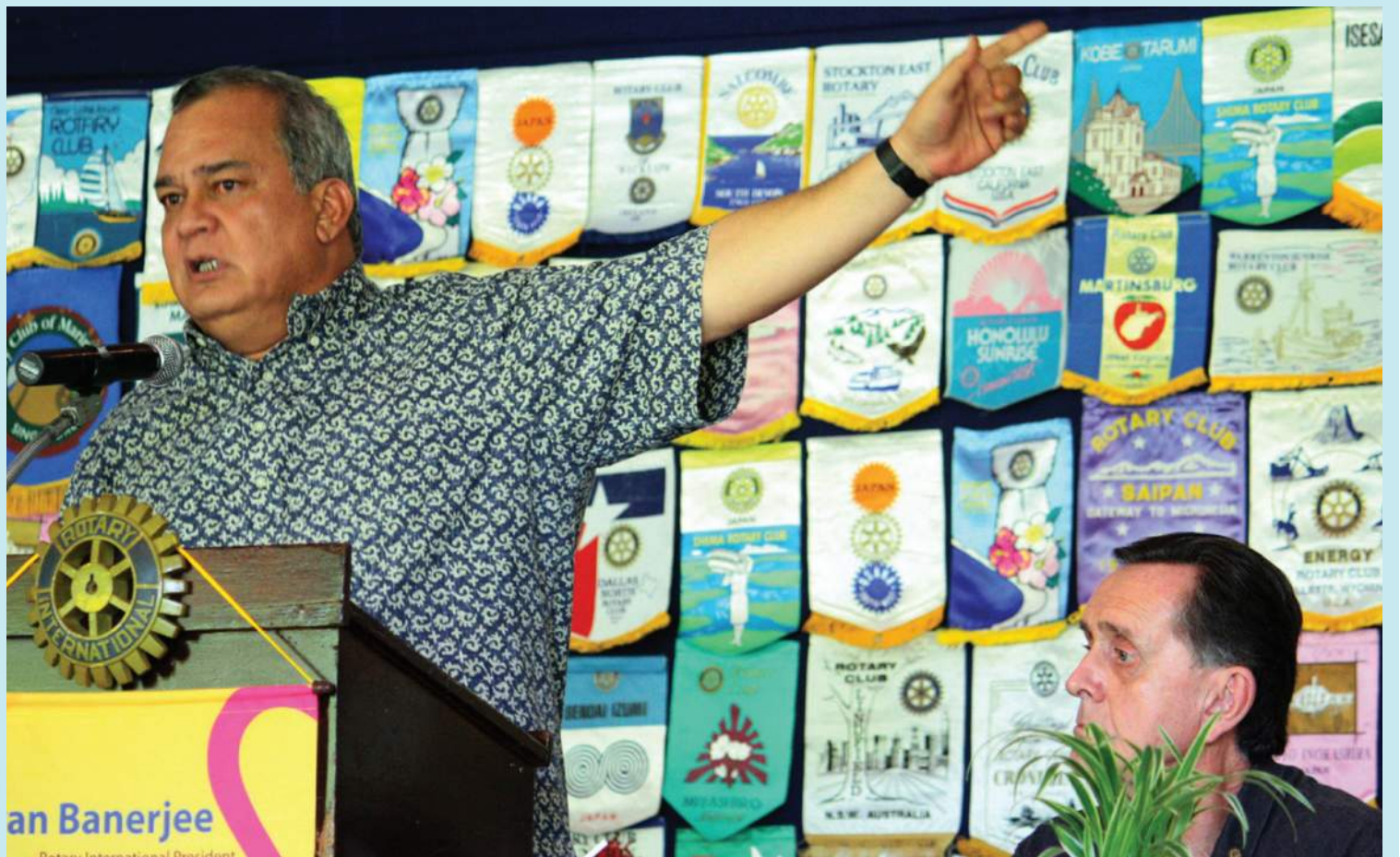
Elbert Quitugua said he checked his uncle's shack in Kagman III, but he was not there. He said neighbors also

See DPS on Page 4

CLASH OF OPINIONS

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, left, gestures as he addresses members and guests of the Rotary Club of Saipan on issues such as food stamp, health insurance and immigration, during the Rotary Club's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency yesterday. Also in photo is Rotary Club vice president Pete Schilling. Sablan is criticizing the Fitial administration anew for not supporting the CNMI's inclusion in the national food stamp program. **See story on Page 2.**

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Governor creates new office for public transit. PAGE 3
Cop arrested for alleged domestic violence. PAGE 5

Local

Kilili, Fitial admin clash on health study, food stamp

»Delegate also says HR 1466 will not entitle foreigners to own land or vote

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan criticized the Fitial administration anew for not allowing the local economy to get an additional \$12 million to \$24 million by fully supporting the CNMI's inclusion in the national food stamp program, and for turning its back on a \$1 million grant that could have helped determine how the CNMI could subsidize private health insurance premi-

ums for the middle class.

Press secretary Angel Demapan countered this yesterday, saying the Fitial administration does not oppose getting more funds for nutrition assistance or food stamp, and that the administration is doing something about health insurance.

"However, because of the financial constraints of the central government, the CNMI cannot immediately commit to any added costs without a thorough analysis of the program,"

Demapan said, referring to the food stamp program.

Sablan, who was one of three guest speakers at the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency yesterday, said while it's true that the CNMI government would need to cover half—or \$600,000 to \$700,000—of administrative costs in order to be included in the national food stamp program, the benefits will be \$12 million to \$24 million more being infused into the lo-

cal economy.

"That's a very good return on investment," Sablan said.

Because the national food stamp program will require the CNMI to use "plastic cards" instead of coupons, it will also reduce fraud, he said.

"Hungry people get fed. The economy gets a shot in the arm. Government revenues go up. Fraud is reduced. What's not to like? I do wish our government would agree with me on this," Sablan said in his remarks to

Rotary members and guests.

He said CNMI government officials should not come to work "if they don't want to do anything."

Demapan, for his part, said that Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao and the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program administrator are taking the lead in the food stamp negotiations.

"The governor is awaiting an update of their negotiations and their recommendations," he added.

Faisao is opposed to Sablan's HR 1465, which would allow the CNMI to be covered by the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, instead of by the nutritional assistance block grant that the CNMI annually negotiates.

DCCA analysis

Faisao separately said yesterday that DCCA analyzed the impact of Sablan's HR 1465 or the Ayuda Act which he said will place the CNMI government in a "very un-feasible local matching requirement and restrictive compliance."

He said the national food stamp program will require the CNMI government to use a cost-reimbursement procedure and require strict adherence to cost-matching share.

"The unlikely anticipation by the SNAP System is that operational cost can be reimbursed, but USDA will review and approve cost incurred by the CNMI government if allowable by the reimbursable require-

ments pursuant to SNAP System (National Programs). The federal government under the SNAP System will always provide a 100 percent funding only for benefits at \$12.148 million," Faisao said.

This is the current CNMI DCCA-NAP figure, he added.

Faisao said the CNMI must provide the matching share at \$1.6 million.

The DCCA secretary also said that HR 1465 does not take into account the CNMI government being forced to allocate local fund on revamping fiscal procedures and policies to be consistent with national program requirements.

"In the meantime, [the] Ayuda Act still lacks indicators on the food market surveys that will determine the Thrifty Food Plan for the respective islands (Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Northern Islands) if it is to be implemented. The Ayuda Act is most likely to encourage our low-income household families to continue receiving temporary public assistance, rather than to prepare the CNMI low-income families to transition away from the public or welfare system," Faisao.

He said the national program will also affect local farmers. The current food stamp program helps local farmers because 30 percent of DCCA clients' monthly benefits should be from locally produced food or catches.

DCCA remains firm that the only viable option is to place the CNMI under the Farm Bill 2008 (Block Grant) just like Puerto

See KILILI on Page 4

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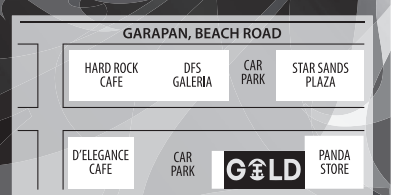
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Governor creates new office for public transportation

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial established last week a new office within the Office of the Governor to develop a viable public transportation system as mandated by a law he signed in May—a move which will also result in the abolition of the Office of Disability Policy and Programs by Oct. 1.

The CNMI does not have a comprehensive accessible transportation system.

Fitial appointed Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for disability policy and programs, as his first special assistant for public transportation to administer the new Commonwealth Office of Public Transit Authority.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said the new office does not need funding because Cama-

cho is already wearing another hat as special assistant for disability programs.

“The administration already takes somewhere around 8 percent for administering certain grants. Also, in his testimony to us, Tom [Camacho] told us that the office can be operated to oversee mass transit with just two persons similar to that of Guam,” Yumul said when asked for comment yesterday.

Yumul is the author of House Bill 17-43, which Fitial signed into Public Law 17-43 in May. This law created a new CNMI Office of Transit Authority within the Office of the Governor.

Grants from the Federal Transit Authority are also eyed to assist the CNMI, as well as other states and territories, in developing or enhancing their transportation systems.

DPL, Suwaso sign new lease accord on Coral Ocean Point

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands and Suwaso Corp. signed Friday a 15-year lease extension on the latter's 25-year public land lease for Coral Ocean Point, following the Legislature's nod on the lease extension.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday that there was only one change made in the draft lease agreement that was presented to the Legislature before lawmakers approved on Aug. 5 the proposed 15-year lease extension.

As the House and Senate required, the final lease agreement gives Suwaso Corp. 120 days—instead of the original 240 days—to submit to DPL evidence of its sources of financing for its upgrade and renovation of Coral Ocean Point as well as for the construction of 200 new guestrooms.

Under the agreement, Suwaso will be paying DPL a minimum annual rental of \$110,000 or 3 percent of gross receipts for the first five years of the extended lease.

The annual rental will change to 11 percent of the fair market value of the land or 3 percent of gross receipts during the second five-year period.

On the third five-year period, the guaranteed annual minimum rental will be 12 percent of the fair market value of the land or 3 percent of gross receipts.

The area covered by Suwaso Corp.'s lease is composed of 735,023 square meters in Unai Dangkulu where Coral Ocean Point is located.

The new consortium of investment partners acquired Suwaso Corp. on July 11 from the previous owners composed of Hyakumata Co. Ltd. in Japan and other minority shareholders.

The new investors include Japan-based investor Yusuke Fumoto, CNMI attorney Vincent Torres, and China-based invest-

tor Jia Tie Liang, who is the major financier of all infrastructure upgrades and improvements to Coral Ocean Point.

Fitial said the new Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is charged with establishing and overseeing a transportation system in the CNMI, and assessing the Commonwealth's transportation needs and developing a viable public transportation system.

He said the new office is also the designated CNMI agency to review, apply, receive, manage and use federal grants from the Federal Transportation Administration.

In an Aug. 11 memo, a copy of which was obtained yesterday, Fitial appointed Camacho to administer the new office.

Fitial said for a smooth transition from the Office of Disability Policy and Programs to his new post within the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Camacho will continue to provide disability-related functions until Sept. 30, 2011.

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“Thereafter, ODDP shall cease to exist,” Fitial said.

Yumul, in his bill, said that ferry and shipping services between Rota, Tinian, and Saipan could also benefit from grants that the new public transit office could apply for and implement.

He also said the skyrocketing cost of gasoline prices has taken its toll on consumers.

Yumul added that the existence of illegal tax services only reinforces the CNMI's dire need for cheap and wide-reaching public transportation system.

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Bench warrant out for Saluta

»Defendant fails to appear at sentencing as Immigration apparently took him to Guam

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 12th birthday to John Joseph C. Salas! We hope you have a blessed and wonderful day! We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Julia, and Janece.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja issued a bench warrant for the arrest of a defendant for failing to appear at his scheduled sentencing yesterday morning as he was apparently taken by Immigration agents to Guam.

Naraja issued the bench warrant against Noel S. Saluta after his lawyer, assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, and the prosecution appeared in court for the scheduled sentencing.

Hartig told *Saipan Tribune* that he also heard that Saluta was taken by Immigration agents to Guam and that Naraja is aware of the situation. Hartig said he is now working on their next possible legal steps.

A family member of Saluta told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that Immigration agents brought the de-

fendant to Guam and that they are not aware of the reason.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from chief prosecutor Michael Ernest, but he was in a meeting. As of press time, he had yet to reply to an email inquiry.

On May 5, a Superior Court jury found Saluta guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon for chasing a man with a knife. Naraja, who decided on the misdemeanor or offense, found Saluta guilty of disturbing the peace. Saluta was supposed to be sentenced yesterday, Aug. 16, 2011.

Police said that Saluta assaulted Alejandro Orellano with a knife outside a poker arcade in Finasisu on April 19, 2009. Saluta denied having a knife; he said he had a silver lighter.

Saluta attracted media attention after he and his wife brought their five children—then ages 7, 6, 4, 2, and a 6-month-old infant—to the Susupe Beach Park stage on Aug. 24, 2010, after their six-month

housing aid program benefits expired. The couple are both jobless.

On Sept. 22, 2010, Saluta surrendered at the Department of Public Safety after learning that police have been looking for him in connection with the April 2009 assault case in Finasisu.

On Oct. 5, 2010, U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents brought

Saluta to their office for investigation of his immigration status. Later that day, ICE released him. A removal case was subsequently filed him.

Attorney Robert H. Myers Jr. earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that Saluta has a legal status to remain in the CNMI as he has a pending labor case and was awarded \$2,275 in damages that has yet to be paid. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

DPS

From Page 1

told him that they never saw the old man in the last two weeks.

Elbert Quitugua said that investigators had informed him that an identification card belonging to his uncle was

recovered at the site where the bones were found on Sunday.

The area where the bones were found was Ricardo Quitugua's daily morning routine path from his shack to CYC Kagman Market, where he routinely purchases newspapers, food, and other items.

DPS is treating the case as a homicide. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

TINIAN

From Page 1

ing and landing on a runway using a combination of radio signals and, in many cases, high-intensity lighting arrays during cases of reduced visibility due to fog, rain, or snow.

The project has been on the drawing board for the Tinian airport since 2005, with an initial funding of \$3.5 million obtained from the Office of Insular Affairs.

The Federal Aviation Administration supported the idea but did not approve funding the project. The FAA was willing to install and maintain the ILS on Tinian, but its initial cost would have to be shouldered by the local government.

Hofschneider said the delegation has already informed OIA about this latest development but there has been no response from the agency as of press time.

He affirmed that the \$3.5 million has already been diverted to other airport projects on Tinian. Close to \$500,000 is being used for the emergency replace-

ment of bollards at the Tinian harbor, which is about to collapse. Unless this rehabilitation work is done soon, the Tinian harbor would be unable to accommodate bigger shipments such as fuel tankers.

The remaining amount, Hofschneider said, will be used to rehabilitate the terminal, parking, and possibly the design for a planned storage fuel tank. If there's still some money left, Hofschneider said they may use that to build the fuel tank.

Hofschneider could not say if the delegation will reconsider the ILS project in the future but described the issue "as a thing of the past."

He said that, based on the information they got from partners like the Tinian Dynasty, which charters flights to the island, aircrafts wanting to land on Tinian could do so without an ILS. These airplanes are from Asian countries.

Tinian Dynasty was among those that supported the installation of an ILS on Tinian. When asked about the company's change of position, Hofschneider said this is perhaps due to the "changes in navigational systems" nowadays.

Hofschneider cited the airports on Rota and the Federates States of Micronesia where 737 aircraft land safely without an ILS.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero welcomed yesterday the decision to divert the \$3.5 million ILS funds to address other important needs of the Tinian airport. He confirmed meeting with the delegation and the municipality on specific projects that could be funded by the ILS funds.

He said portions of the money could be used to procure a cargo conveyor, build stairs for deplaning passengers, and to satisfy other requirements of the Transportation Security Administration.

"Now that Tinian is expressing ILS is not anymore needed, the money can be expended for other important needs that will prepare the airport to be able to receive direct flights," he said, adding that CPA will continue work with the delegation and the municipality to expedite these projects.

He reiterated the lack of need for an ILS at the Tinian airport, saying this equipment may possibly even become obsolete in the future.

Elbert Quitugua, the grandfather of the Luhk sisters, refused to comment about the alleged seizure of the car and the firefighter's departure.

Ten-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina were reportedly last seen near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo on May 25.

SOURCES

From Page 1

car but he refused.

Police Commissioner Ramon Mafnas earlier disclosed that the firefighter resigned from DPS effective July 1,

2011. He had stated that they don't have evidence to support any person of interest as being a participant in the Luhk sisters' disappearance.

Sources said the firefighter left Saipan on Aug. 6 at 4:20am for California, where his former wife and their two children are currently staying.

KILILI

From Page 2

Rico and American Samoa.

"Notably, this Block Grant will provide the CNMI DCCA-NAP a 100 percent federal funding for administration and benefits cost. CNMI will receive its equivalent share whenever the National Program receives their increase. Additionally, \$1.5 million is already circulating in our community pursuant to current DCCA-NAP funding and should Ayuda Act be implemented, then it will be incumbent upon [the] CNMI government to find the matching through local appropriation, which in turn will force the CNMI government to cut other critical government agencies' budgets," Faisao added.

'CNMI reluctance'

Sablan said that U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack also has the author-

ity to bring the CNMI food stamp into the national program.

He made a formal request to Vilsack to put the CNMI in with the rest of the United States but Vilsack is still mulling over it.

"And frankly, the local government's reluctance gives him an excuse to delay. Why should he let go of millions of dollars when he can say, 'Talk to me when you are all in agreement.' Well, we will get into the national program—whether my legislation forces the change or whether I convince the secretary to give fair treatment to people in the Northern Marianas," Sablan said.

The delegate said he's also frustrated by the CNMI government's "decision to turn down a \$1 million grant to look at how we could subsidize private health insurance premiums for the middle class."

A national healthcare reform sets aside monies for U.S. states and territo-

ries. For four territories alone including the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands, \$75 million has been set aside.

But Sablan said the CNMI did not take the grant, to help evaluate the choice of whether to help the middle class pay for their health insurance or put the money into Medicaid for the poor.

"The \$1 million grant was supposed to help local governments evaluate that choice," he said.

Sablan noted that the CNMI is one of only two U.S. states and territories that did not take the \$1 million grant.

"At the very least we could have put some consultants to work. And it could have meant that middle class families who are struggling with cuts in hours and increases in insurance premiums, would get some help. I wish to God we'd taken that grant," he said.

But the Fitial administration said

the delegate needs to be clear about the grant he's referring to.

"If he's referring to the Rate Review Grant, then he is wrong. Governor Fitial had informed the Federal Regional Council in San Francisco that the Commonwealth was getting ready to start spending the \$1 million afforded through the Rate Review Grant. Acting Commerce secretary [Sixto] Igisomar is taking the lead on this grant," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rotarians Agnes McPhetres and David Sablan also wanted to know why the administration didn't take the \$1 million grant, as Sablan had said.

Sablan also asked the delegate about his HR 1466, which proposes a "CNMI-only resident status" for a limited group of people.

"Those who will be affected are already here, and how could somebody who is already here would have addi-

tional devastating effect if 1466 passers?" the Rotarian asked.

The delegate said that contrary to elected officials' and other community members' beliefs, his HR 1466 will not provide eligibility to affected individuals to own land in the CNMI, vote in the CNMI, or participate in social services.

Sablan also reiterated that there are only some 4,000 parents of U.S. citizens who will be affected by his bill, and not 11,000 as the Fitial administration had said.

But Sablan said the Fitial administration is not sure about its figure of 11,000 when it said it wants Congress to hold off action on HR 1466 until after the 2010 Census data are released.

"Make up your mind," Sablan said. "Do you have 11,000 or you want to wait until the census because you don't know what your number is? We've got to stop all this nonsense."



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ramon Mafnas gives instruction to press secretary Angel Demapan as police officer Jason Tarkong listens before the start of the press briefing Monday at the Department of Corrections' conference room about the investigation into the human remains found in Kagman III.

Tinian mayor backs delay in implementing health corp.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz fully supports a plan to delay the implementation of the new Commonwealth Health Corp., describing the idea as the best move that would prevent more chaos in the delivery of health-care services.

Public Law 16-51 mandates the conversion of the Department of Public Health into the new Commonwealth Health Corp., including the Rota and Tinian health centers, effective Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year. With only \$5 million as seed capital for the new corporation, Dela Cruz is convinced that health programs and ser-

vices will suffer.

"Tinian municipality is in full support of that idea because I have serious doubts that it will work at this time. I have already raised this issue many times with the [Fitial] administration so I hope it will be considered. I don't think the corporation will be profitable because for one thing, it will start and stand on its own by having only \$5 million—an amount not even enough to pay for some immediate services," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Department of Public Health earlier disclosed that its operating expenses range from \$18 million to \$30 million a



Dela Cruz

year, excluding medical referral costs.

Once the corporation is in effect, health centers will be operating under the corporation—not under the municipality's control, which is the current setup.

"My major concern is, at the end of the day, people who want to get medivac [emergency evacuation] to Saipan, Guam, or the Philippines will still knock on our door to seek help," Dela Cruz said.

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola did not answer calls when contacted several times yesterday to get his position on the issue.

Rota Health Center resident director Edward Maratita ad-

mitted that there are some uncertainties in the creation of the new health corporation but declined to give an official position whether the Rota Health Center supports or not the delay in its implementation.

On Thursday, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) told board members of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance that issues at the Commonwealth Health Center are the most pressing at this time. The topic came up while deliberating on funds for SHEFA's scholarship programs.

"Our biggest issue now is

CHC. It will not survive as a corporation today without the seed money to help them out. They will never survive with only \$5 million. Yes, the idea is good...but it needs at least two years to stand ready on its own," said Cabrera at the meeting.

The Commonwealth Health Center, including the Tinian and Rota health centers, was placed under a state of emergency in July due to a severe cash shortage that has resulted in arrears in payments to vendors of pharmaceutical, medical, dialysis, and food supplies.

According to Tinian Mayor

Dela Cruz, the municipality's health center still owes its vendors about \$180,000, including obligation to the center's midlevel providers.

"THC is struggling and we're hoping that this emergency declaration will help address some of its immediate concerns," he said, adding that since the declaration "very little" has happened and bills remain unpaid.

Dela Cruz said that eliminating non-essential offices, including the Indigenous Affairs Office and the Carolinian Affairs Office, may help the government save on funds.

Cop arrested for alleged domestic violence

A police officer was arrested late afternoon yesterday for allegedly beating up his girlfriend in front of her child at their Kannat Garden's Apartment residence.

Sources said that Police Officer 2 Jerome Agulto Reyes, assigned to the Koban Station in Garapan, was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, assault, and child abuse.

A \$10,000 cash bail was imposed for Reyes' temporary release. He is expected to be taken to the Superior Court today, Wednesday, for his initial court appearance.

Sources said the victim

sustained bruises on the right arm, left wrist, shoulder, neck, rear right ear, and right side of the back.

Detective Peter A. Aldan is handling the investigation, sources said.

Sources said the victim called a probation officer Monday afternoon that she was a victim of domestic violence involving her live-in boyfriend, Reyes.

The girlfriend reportedly claimed that the 35-year-old Reyes grabbed her by the neck, choked her, and repeatedly pushed her. Reyes also allegedly held a baseball bat across her chest. These

allegedly happened on Saturday at 2:30am, in the presence of the girlfriend's 9-year-old daughter. When the victim pretended to talk to a police dispatcher, Reyes allegedly grabbed and pulled her right arm and punched her on the right arm.

On Aug. 14, Sunday, Reyes allegedly threatened to break the face of his girlfriend's daughter, scaring the girl.

On Monday, the girlfriend took her daughter with her to work. After work she drove to the Office of the Adult Probation, where she reported the incident. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

5 from NMI already signed up for Japan volunteer work

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Five individuals from Saipan and 10 from Guam have signed up for the Holiday Tour Micronesia volunteer work, which aims to allow volunteers to go to Japan at their own expense to help out in the reconstruction efforts in areas heavily damaged by the earthquake and tsunami in March.

Holiday Tour Micronesia volunteer work is a collaborative effort of Holiday Tour Micronesia in Guam and the Morioka Branch Office of Kinki Nippon Tourist Co., Ltd. in Japan.

Morioka in Iwate Prefecture will be the focus of the volunteer work, which will be conducted for five days and four nights.

Yoichi Matsumura of Pacific Development Inc. said this prefecture is "quite far" from Fukushima 1 Nuclear Power Plant, which had a nuclear meltdown after it suffered major damage during the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

"We would like to entice as much people to join in this volunteer program," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Matsumura said that Continental Airlines offers a special rate for program participants. Each volunteer from Saipan will have to pay \$1,610 for airfare, meals, and twin sharing room accommodation. Those who want to stay in a single room will have to pay an additional

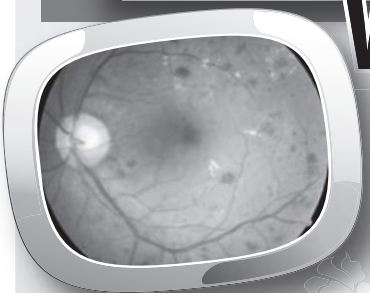
\$260 each.

He said Continental Airlines will accept the booking for this volunteer work until Aug. 31.

Matsumura said all volunteers will meet with the Iwate Prefecture Social Worker Association, which will brief them about the work plan.

He also noted that the Sendai Airport, which was also affected during the March catastrophe, has already secured its clearance and authorization from the Federal Aviation Administration.

To volunteer or for more information, call Matsumura at 322-8770 or 287-8785.



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FBI: Firefighter had right to refuse polygraph test

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on Saipan said the firefighter at the Department of Public Safety who refused to take the polygraph exam in the case of the missing Luhk sisters was merely exercising his constitutional right.

"That's that person's right. We cannot compel anyone to sit down to a polygraph," Joe Authur said at the Rotary Club of Saipan regular meeting yesterday.

The former firefighter, who refused to undergo a lie detector test in connection with the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk on May 25, reportedly left for California on Aug. 6 at 4:20am.



FBI agent Joe Athur, center, talks about the case of the two missing sisters, Faloma and Maleina Luhk, during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday. Others in photo are Rotary president Pete Igitol, left, and vice president Pete Shilling.

'Be vigilant for potential terror acts'

Special agent Joe Authur of the Federal Bureau of Investigation called on the community to be vigilant for any activities that may lead to terrorism acts on island.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday, Authur noted that the FBI is not aware of any terrorist groups operating on Saipan. "[But] it's something that obviously we have to always be very vigilant for, part of 9/11 [precaution]," he said.

According to Authur, suspicious acts such as the purchase of an unwarranted amount of or stocking up on fertilizer (which contains ammonium nitrate), fuel oil or hydrogen peroxide of people who do not normally buy them is something that the FBI needs to know about since these are components in making bombs, which he said is often

the weapon of choice.

Authur also noted that the CNMI is in close proximity to the southern region of the Philippines, which is home to terrorist organizations such as Jemaah Islamiyah.

He said the U.S. military is very aggressive in helping the Philippine military defeat these terrorist groups.

"It wouldn't be too far of a reach, I suppose, to think that elements of that organization or organizations could make it to Saipan... I'm certainly in no position to say that there is no threat. However, we're not aware of anything right now," said Authur.

While the FBI is doing more counterintelligence and counterterrorism efforts, Authur said the bureau has had successful prosecutions on cases on human trafficking, public corruption, and bank fraud. (Clarissa V. David)

Authur, who has been on Saipan for 10 years now, said they encouraged the firefighter to take the test but he chose not to.

"Quite frankly, there's nothing we can do to make him [take the test] anymore than I can make somebody sit down for an interview with me," he said. "Everybody has a constitutional right and he exercised it."

Authur noted that they are still interested in identifying another person of interest—the man with a distinctive birthmark on his right cheek.

"The birthmark person, as we call him, we're still interested in trying to identify the person. We haven't really identified who that is," he said.

Authur underscored that being tagged as a person of interest suggests that "he might have been a witness" to what happened to the Luhk sisters and not necessarily the person who abducted the children.

"We're not even in a position to say definitively that they actually had been abducted. It sounds crazy that they could just wander off and gotten lost somehow. I'm not a proponent of that theory but any other evidence to the contrary certainly can't rule it out," he added.

Since the Luhk sisters were reported missing, the FBI, including other federal agencies, have sent agents to Saipan upon the request of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and DPS Commissioner Ray Mafnas as part of domestic police cooperation cases.

These cases, Authur said, allow any police department to request for FBI assistance "where we might not normally have any jurisdiction." The requests involve processing of crime scene evidence in the FBI's laboratory.

Authur said that federal agents worked with local authorities for any information, including that of persons with interest, which would help the case. "It didn't matter what federal or local agency you're with. Everybody [was] united with one common goal," he added.

According to Authur, the federal statute on kidnapping requires that missing children, especially those of tender years, has a presumption related to an abduction after 24 hours.

"While we still cannot say that that is what happened in this instance, there is that presumption because of passage of time," he said.

With the possibility of transporting the missing children out of Saipan, Authur said authorities covered their bases by working with the ports and immigration, checking passenger manifests both by specific names and by age.

He said the human remains that were discovered on Sunday belong to an elderly person who lives alone in Kagman and walks around in the area, although their initial assumption was "nobody has been reported missing on Saipan in six months to a year other than these two young girls."

"So when the remains were found, nobody thought that it could have been anybody other than these young children or at least one of the young children," said Authur.

He added, "There's a part of me that would like to see some sort of closure for the families. Certainly, it brings out at least some hope that the children could still be alive, although I must say with the passage of time, being what it is historically, the odds are against that."

NATIONAL-CNMI IMPAIRED DRIVING CRACKDOWN

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

August 19th thru September 5th, 2011

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Rotation of BOE student rep appointment OK'd

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law Friday a bill requiring that the student representative to the Board of Education is alternately appointed from each public high school on Saipan,

Tinian, and Rota.

Fitial, in his message to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), commended the Legislature for passing the measure as it updates the statute to take into consideration the growing

number of public schools in the CNMI.

"This legislation now fairly alternates appointments of students from each public high school to the State Board of Education," Fitial said.

Rep. Ray Palacios's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-192 is

now Public Law 17-50.

Article 15, Section 1(c) of the CNMI Constitution requires that the governor appoint three non-voting ex-officio members to the Board of Education.

One of the three shall be a student attending a public school, one member shall be

a representative of private schools, and one member selected by an exclusive bargaining representative of the teachers within the Department of Education, now the Public School System.

The student representative from a public high school is appointed on a rotating basis by senatorial district.

Palacios, in his bill, said this requirement held true as there were only three public high schools—one on each senatorial district of Saipan, Tinian and Rota—at the time of the provision's enactment in 1988.

Since then, Saipan has built two more public high schools: Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School.

KHS' Dela Cruz joins national scholars society

Kagman High School senior student Akeiko M. Dela Cruz has earned for herself membership in the National Society of High School Scholars for demonstrating superior academic excellence.

Dela Cruz, a daughter of Violeta and Manases T. Dela Cruz, is a consistent honor and is among the top of her class since her freshman year. She said it has been her dream to join the prestigious organization as her two other

sisters had also been accepted to the group.

According to Claes Nobel, society founder and chairman, Dela Cruz has been selected for membership for her excellent academic achievements. The society of scholars recognizes top students and invites only those who have achieved academic excellence. "I am honored to recognize



Dela Cruz

the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Akeiko has demonstrated to achieve this

level of academic excellence. Akeiko is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that represents our best hope for the future," said Nobel, who is also a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

Dela Cruz said she is deeply honored for the recognition. "I am happy that I was also accepted to this group where my two other sisters were also members. I was surprised and very grateful for this honor because it will provide me greater opportunities for my future," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Aside from being a consistent honor student, Dela Cruz is also involved in academic competitions here and off-island. Last summer, she was among the members of the CNMI Team

that competed in a thespian festival in Lincoln, Nebraska in June. Dela Cruz, a consistent gold medal winner in the regional thespian contests, competed in the duet acting category at the national level. This marked her third year in the national thespian event.

Dela Cruz is also a member of the Public School System Teen Talk program and has also participated in the Sum-

mer Health Career Program. The incoming senior at Kagman High School was recently elected as the new president of the National Honor Society.

Membership to the society of scholars entitles qualified students to enjoy variety of benefits including scholarship opportunities. It was formed in 2002 and has more than 530,000 members in over 160 countries. (*Moneth Deposa*)

CPA approves new lease agreement with Lower Base firm

»But nixes 40-year repayment of arrears

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors approved a new lease term for Ginen Saipan but junked the company's proposal to give it 40 years to settle its arrears.

The company will be given a new 25-year lease to use the former Westpac Freight build-

ing in Lower Base, a property owned by the ports authority. The new lease will run from Dec. 1, 2011, through Nov. 30, 2036, and, if the lessee is not in default, it will be given the option to extend for three more five-year terms, or an additional 15 years.

Ginen was approved an \$826 monthly rental under the new lease, which is also the current lease rate. It will increase by 20 percent every five years, while the sublease

will rise by 25 percent during the same period.

The board instructed its legal counsel, Robert Torres, during Friday's regular meeting to prepare the new lease agreement.

Meantime, the board did not act on Ginen Saipan's long-term payment plan to settle its \$66,000 arrears with the ports authority. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the arrears were incurred by the former lessee, Antonio Camacho.

During Friday's deliberation, it was disclosed that Ginen president Gabriel Boyer is proposing a 40-year repayment plan. This translates to a monthly payment of only \$140. The proposed amount is on top of the \$826 monthly rental for the building and is separate from the lease agreement.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said the board wants a higher monthly collection for the arrears and has instructed him to renegotiate the issue with *Ginen Saipan*.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

San Jose burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at a residence in San Jose Beach.

On Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011, at about 4am, the victim, a 63-year-old local female woke up to noise coming from the living room. She discovered her living room curtain open and the window screen missing.

The victim checked her home and noticed her laptop missing. It is a black Asus laptop with a 14-inch screen. Also missing

was the charger for the computer. Police checked the area and discovered a window screen lying on the ground outside the residence. There were footprints leading toward the beach.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (*Crime Stoppers*)



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Offer valid only on Saipan.



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Pacific territories get observer status at PIF

WASHINGTON, D.C.—This September, representatives of the U.S. insular areas from American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands will be designated as observers when joining member states at the 42nd Pacific Islands Forum being held in Auckland, New Zealand. The observer designa-

tion follows notification from the U.S. Department of State, which made the request to the Pacific Islands Forum.

"I am truly pleased that our insular areas will be afforded the opportunity to participate as observers in this very important regional meeting. Their participation underscores a deeper

level of respect and signifies the importance of the partnerships which need to be made from all political entities throughout the Pacific," said Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta.

The decision was made in response to years of pressure from various island governors, legislators, and leaders of varying political status organizations seeking inclusion and raising the issue at annual Interagency Group on Insular Areas meetings. The IGIA was reestablished by President Obama in April 2010, re-designating the White House as co-chair, alongside the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"Insular area participation is a testament to our continued interagency collaboration with the

State Department and our commitment to moving issues forward through the interagency effort. I am optimistic that a similar determination will be made with respect to the Caribbean Community Secretariat, where the U.S. Virgin Islands would benefit tremendously from participating in a similar manner."

The PIF is composed of 16 Pacific Island members including Australia and New Zealand. Founded in 1971 as the South Pacific Forum, they changed their name in 2000 to the Pacific Islands Forum to be inclusive of newer member Pacific Island nations to the north such as Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau. This year marks the PIF's 40th anniversary. (DOI)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to Lois Manese! "A simple celebration, a gathering of friends; wishing you great happiness, a joy that never ends." God bless! Love, your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

Happy birthday to Jhoana Marie Valencia! Wishing you all the great things in life. Hope this day will bring you an extra share of all that makes you happiest. God bless! With love, from your family!



Belated happy birthday greetings go out to John Sta. Ana, who just celebrated his 13th birthday. May the Lord continue to bless you! Wishing you good health and more birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings come from your family.



Happy birthday to Jerome Chinen! May each and every passing year bring you wisdom, peace, and strength. Remember, your best years are still ahead of you and I'll be there for every up, down, and in between. Love you! God bless from Loves, family, and friends. "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."—1 Th 3:12

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Navy training on FDM, Warning Area-517

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 18-20, from 7am to 12am, and on Aug. 24, from 7am to 12am. The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Aug. 22-24, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (USN)

CNMI Library Council meeting tomorrow

The CNMI Library Council will have a meeting tomorrow, Aug. 18, 2011, at 3pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe. The public is invited to attend the meeting in our effort to promote an organizational culture of inclusion, transparency, and accountability for and in partnership with the patrons and general public being served by our public libraries.

The agenda will include reports on various funding sources and federal grant programs; reports on library operations, activities, programs, and circulation; reports from Library Council's Program, Finance, and Policy committees; and the FY 2012 JKPL Budget Request to restore normal library operating hours to better serve the community;

For more information, contact JKPL at 235-7315 and/or 7322. (JKPL)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 17, 1999

Teno: No to 5-year stay limit

The proponent of the controversial initiative seeking a five-year stay limit on alien workers on the island is insistent, vowing to lobby support from voters if members of the Legislature reject its inclusion in the ballots during the November midterm elections. But Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez is facing tough opposition from the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, who yesterday finally spoke against his proposal. Tenorio said the Commonwealth still needs labor pool from Asian countries to fill in jobs in the private sector, citing the limited availability of local manpower to address the employment needs of companies on the island.

FAA grants \$9.3 million for Tinian runway expansion

The Federal Aviation Administration has granted a total of \$9.3 million in assistance for the construction of a new runway on the island-municipality of Tinian. According to Carlos H. Salas, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, this brings to \$12.8 million the total amount of money now available for the project. "We are very appreciative of their assistance and perhaps, additional funds may become available in the near future," said Salas. CPA management and consultants are now developing a draft bid documents for the project which may be released before the end of the year.

Aug. 17, 2000

HANMI reiterates need for tourism master plan

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands has asked the Marianas Visitors Authority to consider drafting a long-term tourism master plan that will help guide tourism officials in marketing the CNMI abroad. HANMI vice president Mustafa Issa has expressed interest in participating in long-term planning by MVA. Tourism officials offered HANMI the opportunity to sit down and review its calendar of annual activities in order to help decide which projects should continue and additional activities the agency should engage in. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said it is very difficult for the tourism office to make any long-term plan because government funding is only made available every year. In a two-hour meeting held Tuesday, MVA and HANMI pledged to work together to achieve their common goal of effectively promoting the Northern Marianas as an ideal destination in the Pacific.

DPS seeks additional funds for intelligence work

The Department of Public Safety has appealed for more funding to cover rising expenses for confidential informants who assist the police and other CNMI agencies in investigative and intelligence work. In a letter to Rep. Antonio M. Camacho, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram Jr. said the agency spends an average of \$5,000 per year for this purpose alone. He even said he has to use his own money to pay confidential informants. DPS is seeking \$50,000 in additional money for the Commissioner's Office to boost its Criminal Intelligence Section, particularly in its fight to combat the growing international crimes in the Northern Marianas.

Aug. 17, 2001

Fitial talks to lawyers about 4 E's

The Covenant Party made such a good choice in Commissioner Rita Inos to run as the party's candidate for lieutenant governor that the party's opponents are at a loss on how to respond. This was stressed by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial before the CNMI Bar Association yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel-Saipan. Fitial is running for governor in the November elections, with Inos as his running mate. "If you look at the newspaper, it seems some have decided the best way to attack my choice is to attack her relentlessly. It is a disgrace. We would be lucky to have someone of Rita's caliber as Lt. Governor," said Fitial.

'NMI needs strong, aggressive governor'

As the Tenorio Administration nears the end of its term, the CNMI now more than ever needs a strong and aggressive governor who will not relent in defending the Commonwealth even if the federal government continues with its indifferent attitude towards the US insular areas. This came from House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial who said it is critical that voters in the upcoming general elections vote someone who can make people in Washington DC listen, otherwise, the CNMI will continue to be "the least of Washington's priorities."



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.** at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes – May 19, 2011 & June 29, 2011
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **New Business**
 1. Proposal for Rota tourist site restroom
 2. Proposal for Rota Video Promotion
 3. FY2012 Budget Meeting
- 4) **Old Business**
 1. 2011 Saipan Marathon for Board sanction
 2. HCIP Update
- 5) **Committee Reports**
 1. Finance
 - a. Fund Status report
 - b. FY2010 Audit report (put under finance)
- 6) **Executive Session**
- 7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its **Special** meeting **Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings
 1. May 23, 2011 (Special)
 2. June 17, 2011 (Special)
 3. July 01, 2011 (Emergency)
 4. July 22, 2011 (Special)
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Pension Software
 - B. Senate Bill No. 17-43, SD1, HS1, CCS2
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. 2nd and 3rd Floor Office Space
 - B. Rota and Tinian Offices
 - C. RFP External Auditors
- V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VI. **MISCELLANEOUS**
 - A. Other Related Matters
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Local biz support new Nagoya flights



Members of a media FAM (familiarization) tour from Nagoya, Japan end their tour of Saipan at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Joyful Dinner Show on Aug. 13, 2011. The FAM tour was conducted in support of Fly Micronesia's new Nagoya-Saipan direct air service launched on Aug. 11, 2011.

In an effort to help fill new flights to Saipan from Nagoya by regional air carrier Fly Micronesia, several local businesses contributed to the familiarization tour of seven journalists in Thursday's inaugural flight.

Writers and photographers from *Chunichi Shimbun*, *Gifu Shimbun*, lifestyle magazines *CHEEK* and *SPY GIRL*, and *Golf Masters* participated in three-day whirlwind tour of the island.

Hyatt Regency Saipan provided accommodations, breakfast, and other discounts for the group. Additional meals were provided at Country House restaurant, Fiesta Resort & Spa's Joyful Dinner Show, and Sand Castle Saipan's Cocktail Show.

Tasi Tours provided a tour of Mañagaha and various marine sports activities at the award-winning island on Friday afternoon. The course at Coral Ocean Point Golf and Spa was opened to the tour participants that afternoon, while some opted for a hike down to Forbidden Island with Marianas Trekking.

The Marianas Visitors Authority also supported the tour with ground transportation, assistance with film permitting, a staff escort, and a welcome reception in collaboration with the Hyatt.

"This new service from Japan by Fly Micronesia is a most welcomed development," said MVA marketing

manager Bruce Bateman. "The media had requested specific activities to cover during their tour, and several tourism partners stepped up make these activities available. This FAM tour was a success because of these businesses' support, and we thank them heartily."

The media also visited the Garapan Street Market and took an island tour of historic sites before their departure on Sunday, Aug. 14. The Nagoya-Saipan flights will be operating five times weekly by the end of August, with 144 available seats per flight. The total media exposure value for the Northern Marianas from the FAM tour is estimated at almost \$400,000. (MVA)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-048

GEOHERMAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ON SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to explore for and develop geothermal energy on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the purpose of generating electricity. Proximity to the active Mariana volcanic arc, extensional faulting, and the occurrence of shallow water wells with anomalous temperatures suggest that sufficient geothermal resources may exist beneath Saipan to support generation of electricity using binary plant technology.

Proposer must submit a development plan including: (1) a timeline and milestones for resource assessment, exploration drilling, resource development and plant construction, and delivery of electricity to the grid; and (2) a pricing schedule for electricity delivered to the grid. The successful Proposer must have demonstrated capability and provide equipment and materials necessary to (1) assess geothermal potential and identify targets for exploratory drilling, (2) perform exploration- and production-hole drilling, and (3) construct and operate geothermal power plants.

The RFP package and Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed to all interested Offerors, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of \$ 200.00 for one set; by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **August 17, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-048, Geothermal Energy Development on Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **September 6, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email in PDF format, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **August 22, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications of prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-052

PROCUREMENT OF SEWER PUMP TRUCKS (VACTOR)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of Two (2) New Sewer Pump Trucks (Vactor) for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The trucks will jet and vacuum wastewater from the sewer systems. The vehicles should be small enough to work on Saipan's side streets (secondary roadways). The vehicles should be equipped to work at night, in traffic, without a power source.

The RFP packet and specification will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:00 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-052, Procurement of Sewer Pump Trucks (Vactor)" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 15, 2011. Offerors are required to complete all Bid Forms. Offerors may supplement this form as appropriate. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email in PDF format, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Proposal will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Offerors are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 0P200 - Instructions to Offeror.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2011 to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Commander, Kenneth Esplin, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kenneth_esplin@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-11-053

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Materials for the Talafofo Overhead Power Line Extension Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-053, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on September 20, 2011** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of **15 percent** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment and Performance Bond of **one hundred (100%)** percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **September 2, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo_palattao@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 194Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Common ground on deficit

The new law that allows President Obama to raise the debt ceiling created a bipartisan “super committee” to seek a major deficit-reduction deal by Thanksgiving, and this week congressional leaders named the 12 lawmakers who will be on it. Tellingly, not one of them signed on to any of the bipartisan budget proposals that have surfaced in the last year. Four were on the White House fiscal commission that offered a bold plan in December to close the federal budget gap, but all of them voted against it. And none is part of the so-called Gang of Six senators who outlined another way to tackle the deficit last month.

Instead, the membership of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction consists almost entirely of lawmakers with close ties to their party’s leadership. For example, one of the Senate Democrats, Patty Murray of Washington, leads her party’s fundraising committee for Senate candidates; one of the House Democrats, Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, served in the same role for House candidates last year. And all six Republicans have signed a pledge not to vote for any tax increases, which Democrats say is a prerequisite for any cuts to entitlements.

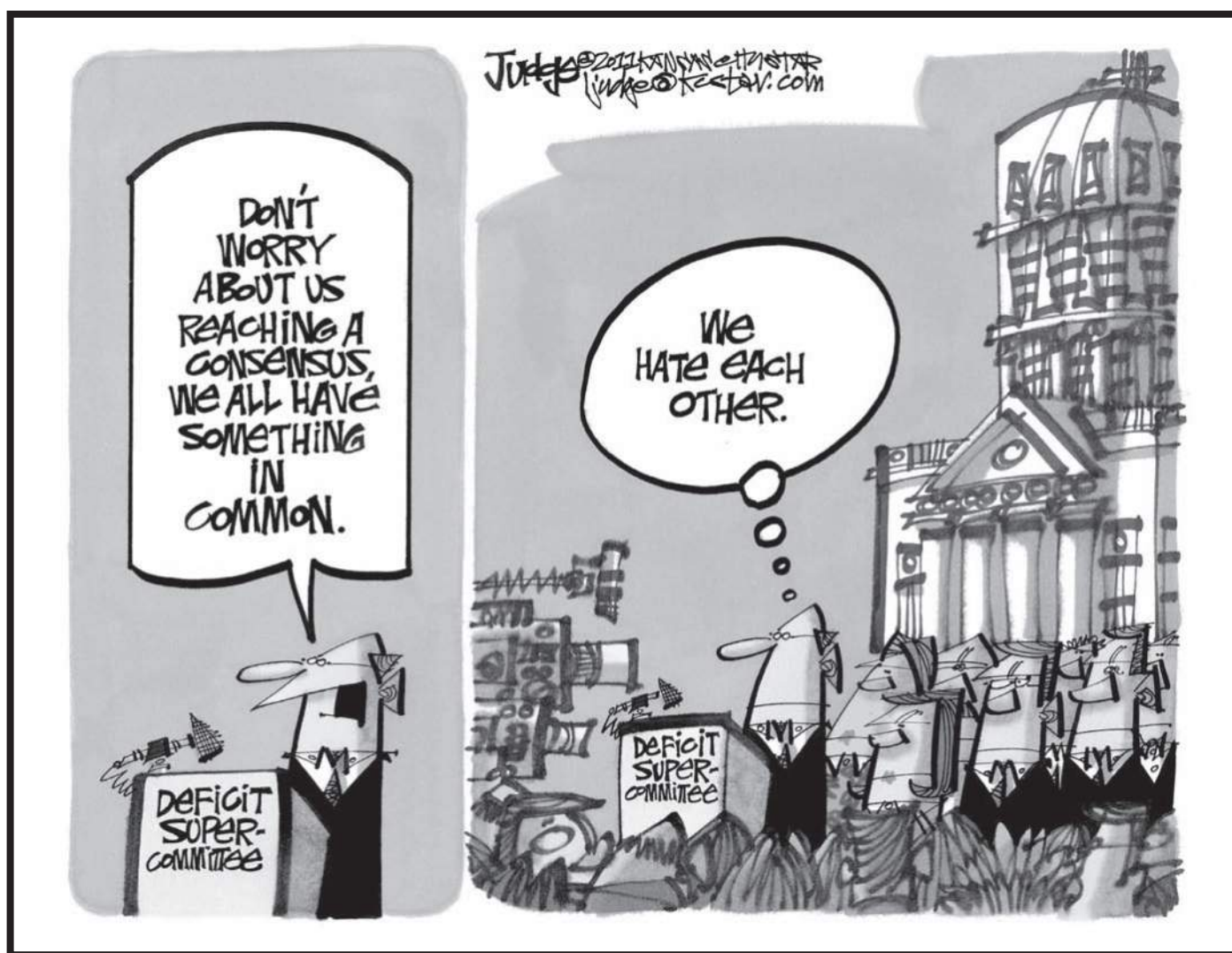
This is the group whose goal is to cut \$1.5 trillion from federal deficits over the next decade? Good times, right?

By packing the committee with party stalwarts, however, congressional leaders have improved its prospects. That’s because the group will have to sell any plan it comes up with to the highly polarized House as well as the marginally less fractious Senate. Conservatives and liberals alike will have to be persuaded that the plan is the best their side could hope to achieve, and that it’s a better option than the \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board cuts that would otherwise go into effect.

Of course, the first part of the committee’s work—reaching consensus on a plan—will be no mean feat. The two parties are fundamentally split over the goal of the exercise, with Republicans determined to shrink the federal government and Democrats just trying to shape up its balance sheet. They’re also at odds over the timing of austerity measures, which Republicans see as a tonic to the economy and Democrats as a poison.

Nevertheless, the two sides have a common interest in a sweeping tax overhaul that would broaden the base and lower rates, even if they disagree about how far rates should drop and how much revenue the change should generate. They have a shared desire to solve the federal government’s problem with rising healthcare costs, even if they have different visions for Medicare and Medicaid. If it really wants to do it, this group of 12 can reach a deal. And given who they are, they may just be able to persuade an uncompromising Congress to accept it.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times



Loss of foreign investments

The CNMI has suffered heavily from the loss of foreign investments, primarily from the Land of the Rising Sun. The loss was preceded by the closure and deployment of the apparel industry that used to generate some \$1.2 billion annually. The cumulative loss is about \$5-7 billion.

The loss is horrifically disorienting as leadership, confused and dazed by it all, acquiesce by soulfully humming *que sera, sera*. It’s a reaction that confirms the failed promise “for a progressively higher standard of living” coupled by local failure to build brighter tomorrows.

There were honest differences of views on what entails building the blocks of self-government. We sued the feds on labor issues, a tool necessary to controlling and maintaining the foreign labor requirement of the CNMI. It triggered the unanticipated delay of requisite policies on labor and immigration. We didn’t see this coming but kept blaming the feds for it.

For the first time since the early ’60s, the CNMI, on net, has lost a lot of foreign investment capital as to be forced into austerity. It now suffers from financial paralysis as to be incapable of paying for healthcare nor could it meet biweekly payment of its government payroll. But it conveniently bluffs such setback with frequent and long junkets abroad and expensive dinners in high-end restaurants. We had to boast perceptual opulence amidst the mind-numbing financial chaos here.

In short, confidence and trust on investment went south. We’ve lost a lot of revenues and sit in air-conditioned offices staring at outdated newspapers while chewing betel nut hoping they accidentally turn into cash. But there’s nothing up that alley. It’s as empty as desert land after a prolonged drought season. Would investment like we used to know return like it did in the ’70s, ’80s and ’90s? Or would it trickle to shore in small passive waves? Is large investment history? Regardless, the fiscal pressure for more for far less is here to stay.

Family losses have also been incredibly horrific, i.e., loss of the first family home; inability to weather the tidal shift in utility surcharge cost; holding back on regular spending given cuts on work hours; the net effect is less consumer spending thus far less revenue for the local coffers. What then do we do?

Can employees look forward to recovering the loss of their 80 hours or is this an issue all can claim as the permanent hallmark of this administration? Is this setback likely to turn into joblessness signaling that all hope is lost in paradise? When would wealth and jobs creation begin anew? That the local government is literally bankrupt doesn’t grant leadership or anybody a teeny hole to sink into in hopes of hiding from what’s known as fiduciary responsibility, true? Hello, anybody home?

Is leadership even poised to acknowledge the actuality, enormity and breath of the consequence of neglect? Does it have the ability

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the
Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section



to envision solutions to problematic issues before it with encouragement that it can be done? It’s sad and indeed frightening that most of the so-called leadership can’t see beyond the years for what it is: leadership. We’re more focused on less-than-substantive issues as to ignore what really matters. It’s a tale of how easily our elected officials are engulfed in the toxin and culture of dismissive arrogance that billows clearly from downstairs. They no longer wish to listen to the inner voices of the people they represent in our governmental institutions. But we also have a fitting place for political arrogance—the trash can!

When you ignore or neglect a fiduciary responsibility such as planning for the future economic wellbeing of the CNMI, then it goes to illustrate the apparently shallow grasp of what it takes to strengthen local self-government. It begins with the self. Only we can grab the bull by the horn to walk a steady pace as we plow a newly cleared garden for planting. Otherwise, ours becomes honing the usual pastime of *mañana* as to completely shove off promises of a prosperous economic future. Whatever happened to your oath of office? Did you park it under plates and napkins in lavish dinners paid for by taxpayers? Or did you dump it in your back pockets for *mañana*?

About the only respite or bridge of hope that is left in paradise are the white doves taking full command of everything down below, the pristine savannahs, and golden strands that brace the sandy beaches of home. After that you’re left on your own.

Obamanomics and Obamacare have failed, leaving a huge void for Republicans to fill in next year’s presidential race. The likes of Gov. Rick Perry from Texas or Rep. Michele Bachmann leaves room for a very formidable partnership to claim the White House. Perry is strong on wealth and jobs creation. Bachmann a sure hand on most issues. She’s handled the “submissive” question so very well. Indeed, we need a new set of leadership to commence rebuilding the economic foundation of our country. Otherwise, we’d be seeing a “Debt Man Walking” all over the country from Pennsylvania Avenue. It’s time to reclaim what’s ours!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Deadlines and more deadlines—and a fraud warning

We spend a lot of time feeling like Cassandra, the Trojan princess whom Apollo gave the gift to see the future, but then cursed her so that no one would believe what she said. People just don't want to believe us when we say that there won't be some magic grant of status for foreign workers beginning Nov. 28, that Congressman Kilili's HR 1466 might not pass the U.S. Congress (or might not pass in time), that the U.S. citizens' immediate relatives who have not obtained or at least applied for green cards by then will have to leave or be removed, that (with very limited exceptions) the old CNMI immigration categories are really and truly going to end right then, or that the skies aren't going to rain green cards or passports—in short, that life is going to change for all of us.

Nag, nag, nag—sometimes it seems that all we do is to nag people to take care of themselves and their families by making the necessary immigration applications in the short term, and to make plans for the long term, so that they can avoid family separation and other disruption of their lives and communities. Before Nov. 28, 2009, the CNMI issued nearly 20,000 umbrella permits, of which nearly 15,000 were “240K” worker permits—we are talking about a lot of potential disruption.

So today we're going to take a break from nagging. We're just going to list some important immigration deadlines, and point out that if you are affected by them but don't do anything, your alien family members will be at risk of being removed (deported) by U.S. immigration authorities. That's not nagging, is it?

We're also warning once again about fake lawyers and phony “immigration consultants.” It seems the closer we get to the deadlines, the more we hear about them.

These are, for the most part, topics we've written about before. But with Nov. 27—the last day of the old system—less than 3 ½ months from today, it's important to remind everyone not to wait any longer.

IRs of USCs: File for green cards before Nov. 28, 2011

We have repeatedly warned that immediate relatives of USCs must file for green cards before Nov. 28, but that you do not have to have the application completely processed and approved by then. That's because, if you are the immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, or USC, you get a special break. If you entered the U.S. (or the CNMI, if you entered before Nov. 28, 2009) legally, and if you file for a green card, your application will be processed (and, if you are old enough, you will be issued a work authorization) even if during the processing period you overstay your admission. That means that despite the expiration of all CNMI-issued permits on Nov. 27, 2011, if your application is filed on or before that date, any overstay will be forgiven. This is because U.S. immigration law allows lawfully admitted immediate relatives to process their green card application, and that applies to all immediate relatives of USCs, except for those admitted under the Visa Waiver Program in effect throughout rest of the U.S.

Note that the Guam-CNMI Waiver Program is different. Pursuant to an “interim final rule” known as the Conforming Rule, published by USCIS on Oct. 27, 2009, “those [immediate relatives] who will be admitted under the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program[] may apply for adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident.” This includes Russians and Chinese who, although not in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, are being paroled into the CNMI as tourists. See the USCIS Q&A Fact Sheet at <http://tinyurl.com/36dxawx>. We have already successfully processed green card applications for immediate relatives of USCs who were paroled into the CNMI.

Remember: there are many classes of immediate relatives. The Conforming Rule only applies to the parents, spouses, and children (unmarried and under 21, including adoptees adopted under age 16 and stepchildren whose parents married USCs before the children turned 18); and the surviving spouses—widows and widowers—of USCs. It does not apply to the spouses and children of U.S. lawful permanent residents, or LPRs. (The immediate relatives of LPRs can also apply for green cards, but it takes a lot longer unless they qualify as the battered or abused spouses or children of an LPR under the Violence Against Women Act.)

Special deadline for surviving spouses: Oct. 28, 2011

The widows and widowers of USCs are a special kind of immediate relative. In the bad old days, the general rule was that the surviving

spouse of a USC had two years from the death of the USC spouse to file a Form I-360 self-petition for a green card—but could only file if the marriage had lasted at least two years, or if less than two years, there was already an approved Form I-130 petition for the alien relative at the time the USC died. That rule barred a large number of surviving spouses from applying for green cards, and also resulted in a lot of litigation.

In the CNMI, a lot of widows and widowers who were otherwise qualified to apply for green cards didn't do so within the two-year period, for two reasons: (1) because the CNMI was considered “outside” the U.S. for immigration purposes, they would have had to move “inside” the U.S.—at least to Guam—leaving homes, jobs, friends, and even families behind, until such time as they qualified for U.S. citizenship; and (2) because CNMI immigration law provided unlimited “IR” status to surviving spouses, even after long absences from the CNMI, so long as the survivor did not marry someone else. A lot of widows and widowers therefore opted to stay in the CNMI and not disrupt their lives. When the CNRA—P.L. 110-229, the “federalization” statute—passed on May 8, 2008, the majority of these survivors had no immigration option open to them.

They got lucky. On Oct. 28, 2009, President Obama signed an amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act, which provided for the first time that survivors whose spouses died before Oct. 28, 2009, had until Oct. 28, 2011, to file either a new Form I-360, or to follow up on a prior I-130. This is true no matter how long the couple was married before the USC died, or how long before Oct. 28, 2009, the death occurred, so long as the proper application was made before Oct. 28, 2011. Since then we have successfully processed green card applications for survivors who were married less than two years, and for survivors whose spouses died more than a decade ago.

Remember: Oct. 28, 2011, for widows and widowers whose USC spouse died before Oct. 28, 2009. Sorry, this benefit is for survivors of USCs only—it doesn't apply to survivors of LPRs—but humanitarian reinstatement of a prior I-130 may be possible. After Oct. 28, a new two-year rule will be in place: if your USC spouse died after Oct. 28, 2009, you have two years to file an I-360 or follow up on previously filed I-130. And that's it.

You can find the USCIS fact sheets at <http://tinyurl.com/4saxrb8> and <http://tinyurl.com/y8p3q5e>.

Students: CNMI student permits expire Nov. 28, 2011

CNMI-issued student entry permits were issued through the CNMI Department of Commerce to students at qualifying schools. Those permits, extended by umbrella permits, expire Nov. 27. Those foreigners who intend to remain students in the CNMI and have no other U.S. status allowing school attendance must obtain U.S. student visas (category F-1).

The process is supposed to be simple: a school qualified to admit foreign students issues a Form I-20 to students it admits. The student then takes the Form I-20 to the appropriate U.S. consulate in his or her home country, and the consulate is supposed to issue the F-1 visa, all other things being equal. (We have heard some stories of F-1 visas being refused, particularly at the U.S. consulate in Chengdu, China, most likely due to lack of familiarity with the CNMI and its immigration status, on the ground that the student was really an “intending immigrant” because of long prior residence. Hopefully, these errors will be rectified.)

U.S. student visas are issued under the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, or SEVP, which, we were surprised to find, is administered through Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The home page for SEVP is at <http://tinyurl.com/2bj9xmy>; a list of CNMI schools approved for student visas under SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) is at <http://tinyurl.com/36y5cgf>. We are aware of other CNMI schools currently applying for SEVIS approval; if your school isn't on the list, ask the school administration.

Kudos to Northern Marianas College and its new president, Dr. Sharon Hart, for adjusting the termination date of the fall 2011 semester so that the term ends on Nov. 22. Over the past couple of months we were contacted by a number of students whose NMC registration was held up because they did not yet have student visas, and no time to obtain them before the term started. Because the term was scheduled to end after the students' CNMI permits would expire, the school would not enroll them for the fall semester. Now, at least, these students will be able to finish this semester and, with prompt applications for U.S. student visas, not suffer too long

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and
BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



a break in their education.

Note for student visa applicants: Because approval of a student visa is not guaranteed (apparently especially at Chengdu), be sure to obtain advance parole before leaving the CNMI, and plan your return before Nov. 27.

H-1B, CW-1, CNMI-E2, E1/E2 and other employment-based and investment-based visa applicants: Prepare now, apply as soon as possible

These are, with the exception of some of the investor visas, employer applications for employees. Employers whose employees qualify for visas that do not require either a prevailing wage determination (like H-1B) or new final regulations (like CW-1) should apply for their employees as soon as possible. The same is true of investors, whether the CNMI's own E2C or regular E-1 (treaty traders) or E-2 (treaty investors) and their qualifying employees. Most of these applications take at least several months, and it is doubtful the applications can be fully processed before Nov. 27. We are hoping that for applicants still in process, USCIS will issue appropriate paroles—but we do not have any firm guidance on this point.

For H-1B, we suggest gathering all the necessary documentation to support an application, but—unless you are an employee who intends to pay Guam-scale wages—waiting for the Chamber of Commerce's prevailing wage survey results are available. If you are an employer who has not yet participated in the survey, please do so as soon as possible; the bigger the database, the better. (The CNMI government is also undertaking a prevailing wage survey, but the projected completion date is too far out to be of much immediate use.) Then apply immediately.

For CW-1, which is designed for the general workforce not qualified for other U.S. visas, the applications cannot be submitted until USCIS publishes its final rule. But we now understand that there will be little, if any, variation between the proposed regulations published nearly two years ago, and the final version. Therefore we are advising our employer clients to begin preparing (but not finalizing) the requisite Form I-129 and assembling the supporting documentation, and applying immediately upon publication of the final regulations.

For CNMI E-2 (aka E-2C), the deadline for application is Jan. 18, 2013—but you must demonstrate continuous residence in the CNMI prior to application. That effectively means that the application should be completed by Nov. 27, 2011. That is, apply now. We are generally recommending E-2 applications if the investor is eligible for both E-2 and E-2C—the necessary work is about the same—but some of our clients have decided to apply for E-2C while waiting for the business climate to improve.

We've said this before, in almost the same words: Nov. 27, 2011, is the last day of the two-year grace period mandated by the CNRA. Unless existing laws and regulations change, and except for the possible passage of HR 1466—there is little reason to believe that they will—beginning Nov. 28, USCIS and ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) will no longer honor entry permits and umbrella permits issued by the CNMI government. Everyone who on that date does not have some immigration status issued or at least approved by the U.S. government will be “out of status,” an “over-stayer,” or some other term that means “unlawfully present in the U.S., and subject to removal (deportation).” Ignore the facts at your own risk: ICE is already actively bringing investigations and filing removal cases.

Warning: Fake lawyers, ‘immigration consultants’ and the unauthorized practice of law






In the past we have warned about immigration “services” provided by individuals who falsely pretend to be lawyers, or who pretend to know immigration law. In the past few months alone we have been consulted by people who paid for immigration services they didn't get, or which were incompetently done, with the result that they

See DEADLINES on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Palau	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Rain	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 83 ▼ 73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77

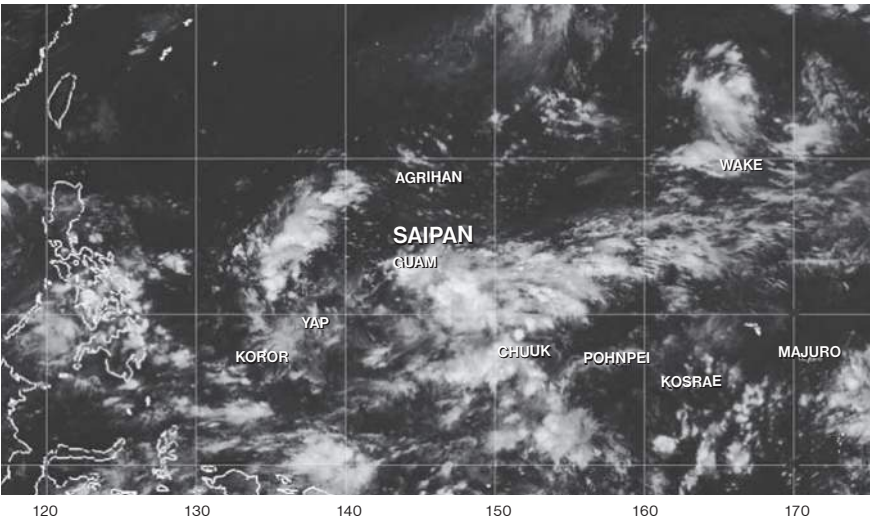
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 47
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▼ 83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 58
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 56 ▼ 46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 91 ▼ 79
New York	Thundershowers	▲ 76 ▼ 66
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲ 94 ▼ 80
Paris	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 63
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Rome	Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 71
Salem	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 55
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 75
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 94 ▼ 80
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 72

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation is centered north of Yap at 13N136E. A surface trough curves northward from the circulation to end northwest of Saipan near 21N142E. An upper-level low is centered southeast of Okinawa near 23N132E. Divergence southeast of the upper-level low is helping to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 110 miles of a line from 12N135E to 19N140E. Another trough extends east-southeastward from the surface circulation north of Yap to 8N150E then turns to the northeast to end northwest of Pohnpei near 12N157E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring between Koror and Yap within 100 miles of 9N137E and near Chuuk within 120 miles of a line from 6N148E to 8N152E. Surface convergence north of the trough is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Guam and Rota and to the east between 9N and 14N from 144E to 165E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Koror, southwest of a line from 8N130E to 1N143E and south of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 150E to 158E. A trade-wind trough extends northeastward from 2N176E to beyond the date line at 6N. Scattered showers are present east of Majuro east of a line from 1N173E to 8N173E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Wake Island near 24N162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found just northwest of Wake Island between 19N and 25N from 162E to 168E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:04 PM	7:44 AM
Wednesday	8:40 PM	8:31 AM
Thursday	9:17 PM	9:18 AM
Friday	9:55 PM	10:05 AM
Saturday	11:20 PM	11:44 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 11, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C09314 2:20am 2:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C09315 5:30am 6:00am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C09315 4:25am 5:00am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C09314 3:20am 3:55am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C09317 4:25am 5:15am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C09315 4:25am 6:00am 1, 5 via ROP C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 5K386 5:50pm 6:40pm 4 C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily 5K382 11:30pm 12:20am+1 1, 5	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C09314 2:20am 3:55am 1, 5 via ROP C09316 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 5K387 6:30am 7:20am 3, 4, 7 C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 5K389 8:00am 8:50am 5 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) 5K212 8:20am 10:55am 3, 4, 7	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN 5K213 11:55am 4:25pm 3, 4, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:05pm 12:45am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:05am 8:30am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:20am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:50am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/191 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:05am 9:55pm Daily via NRT C09313/183 7:55am 8:40pm 3, 6 via GUM C09603/183 3:05pm 8:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM C09603/193 3:05pm 10:10pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN DL172/288 7:45am 12:35am+1 Daily via NRT OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0190/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 3, 6 via GUM C0192/9596 9:55pm 7:25am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:25am 5, via GUM PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am 1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:20am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 5K168 9:50am 1:00pm 1, 5 C09603/179 3:05pm 9:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:30pm 11:00pm 7 via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:25pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:25pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN 5K169 2:55pm 10:00pm 1, 5 C0180/9596 10:30pm 7:25am+1 5 via GUM C0180/9596 10:30pm 7:50am+1 1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letter to the Editor

Let’s act NOW

In response to Anthony Pellegrinos column, “Yes, we can do it” published in the *Saipan Tribune* on Monday, Aug. 15, 2011, I wholeheartedly agree. John F. Kennedy once said, “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.” While in Cambodia, I was given the task of writing a presentation for people wanting to go into business for themselves, improve their economic situation and to think positively. Mr. Pellegrino struck several key points of this presentation. Positive thoughts, if someone believes he or she can do something, it can be done.

Saipan has hundreds, if not thousands, of wild coffee trees growing throughout the island. Ten acres alone will produce over \$200,000 worth of cherry (or non-processed beans). Vietnam’s No. 1 export is coffee, which was valued at over \$1 billion in 2009. If the people of the CNMI believe they can excel, then the island could produce millions of dollars in exports. My landlord once mentioned to me that his family has numerous avocado trees growing wild on the family land and yet no one harvests the fruit and sells them. The citrus fruit industry, banana tree industry, avocado industry, and coffee industries can lead the way. Guam has numerous military bases that would like to acquire these produce on a daily basis. The CNMI can fulfill these needs.

Thinking of the creative plane, there are two planes of thought: The creativity and competitive planes. Look at what the CNMI has to offer that can make money: perfect weather 90 percent of the time, beautiful beaches, and a perfect location. What can the CNMI offer that no one else can? Find things that we can offer. Working together with everyone will bring a climate of community support and wealth to the island. Working against each other or on the competitive plane will only bring the CNMI down. We’re not in competition with anyone.

Avoid negative people. When people tell you that you can’t do something you will most likely give up. If people believe in you then you can succeed. If the people of the CNMI begin to tell other people who want to succeed they can’t, the island itself cannot succeed. Surround your-

self with people who support you and believe in you. Say “I believe in the CNMI.” Avoid the crablike mentality; don’t pull people down before they succeed. Instead, you should concern yourself with helping people become successful. If everyone is successful, everyone has money and if everyone has money they spend it. If they are spending their money everyone becomes wealthy.

Lastly, everyone should understand there is a right for everyone to become wealthy. The world will not run out of money. No matter how you look at it, there is enough money in this world for everyone to be wealthy. Saying yes we can, knowing what we have to offer others, believing in ourselves, being creative, and avoiding those who say we can’t is very important in ensuring that the CNMI will become self-sufficient.

Back to what John F. Kennedy said, ask what you can do. Bringing wealth to the CNMI will take a community effort. He was challenging each and everyone of us to be the best we can be and to become self-reliant. The government won’t and hasn’t helped us become rich or wealthy. It’s up to each and everyone of us to work together to become wealthy, to educate our children, work hard and then, together, we can watch the government and communities improve. When one of us becomes successful, we can all become successful.

Ask yourself what you will do to help the CNMI grow. Being part of the solution and not part of the problem is the first step. Think of all the businesses that need to be here, can be created or what you can start in the CNMI and then you can see the wealth for itself and the residents. Worry about the solutions, not the problem. If you are hungry, do you sit in the living room worrying about it? Probably not, you go and eat. Solving problems is as easy as that. People solve problems. We can start today because a long journey begins with the first step and I ask you...are you ready to take that first step? We need to act now.

Keith Brooks
Dandan, Saipan

Dandan Neighborhood Watch and Village Revitalization Team

On Aug. 8, 2011, the Dandan Neighborhood Watch & Village Revitalization Team marked its second year of existence. Since its inception, the Team has been maintaining the Dandan Children’s Park and the roadsides throughout the village on Saturdays.

On July 20, 2011, the Team submitted its application to the Department of Commerce for a not-for-profit corporation. And on Aug. 1, 2011, just 14 days short of its second anniversary, the application was approved and now the group is named *Dandan Village Civic Action Association*. This will allow us to conduct, among many others, fundraising activities to fund the expansion of the Park’s facilities. The first two fundraising activities will take place in the next few weeks. Residents of Dandan are encouraged to join the Association.

As the Team marks its second year, it is very appropriate to express our most profound appreciation to individuals and businesses that have contributed to the success of the Team.

1. Mr. Joseph Torres, proprietor/general manager of Torres Refrigeration, for repairing our equipment, without charge, whenever they break down.
 2. The Honorable Justice Ken Govendo for his monetary contribution for fuel and supplies.
 3. Mr. (and Mrs.) Eric A. Cruz, proprietor/general manager of Erico, for volunteering his personal time, heavy equipment, and personnel.
 4. Marianas Housing Corp.’s executive director, Mr. Josh Sasamoto, staff members, and its board for the grant award to rehabilitate the Dandan Children’s Park and for their untiring efforts throughout the award processes.
 5. To the many individuals and businesses that have provided the Team with beverages on Saturdays.
 6. To the residents of Dandan, and those who visit Dandan, who appreciate the efforts of the Team in keeping our village of Dandan clean, safe, and vibrant. They are our source of energy to continue what we are doing.
 7. To our spouses and children who provide us the encouragement every Saturday morning before we set off to “work” and welcome us back with our soiled and tattered work clothes.
 8. To our newest members: Mr. Gus C. Aguon, his son and brother Carlos Aguon (Bantam member) and Joe C. Aguon, respectively; Mrs. Rose C. White, association secretary; brothers Walter Santos and Julian Sablan, Benny C. Sablan, Tom S. Castro, and Ellery Cruz.
 9. To the many folks who have joined us in the past and continue to work with us whenever they can. Your contributions to our village are well-noted.
 10. To the drivers traveling the roads on Dandan on Saturdays, thank you for driving slow and keeping us safe.
- It is very important to note, also, that the restoration of the Dandan Children’s Park is being undertaken and its completion is scheduled

at the end of August 2011. This includes new backboards of the basketball court, repainting/lining of the basketball court, benches on the sides of the basketball court, transforming the former restroom into a meeting place and an extension of the same structure for the new restroom facility, repainting of the pavilions, and re-wiring and restoration of electrical power to the Park. Once again, residents and guests are welcome to use the facility.

Toward the end of August 2011, the children’s play area at the park will sport sets of slides, monkey bars, seesaws, and swings. Please join us in expressing our most sincere and profound appreciation to Mr. Jerry Tan of Tan Holdings for the monetary contribution given to the Team to make this possible. Our children will finally have a place for fun and enjoyment. Parents are asked to accompany their children to the Park to ensure their safety.

We are pleading for the cooperation of our residents and guests to help us maintain a clean, safe and healthy village. When visiting the Park, please help us in keeping it litter and graffiti-free. The Park is ours: residents and visitors alike.

Keiper’s double folly

Oh my, oh my. We’re not going to get into any argument over whether my mind is being swayed from one end of the political spectrum to the other or not by watching whatever news source is blaring on my TV at the time. (It is not.)

However, I take great exception to the “facts” you quoted in your most recent letter. Once again, it appears you are making statements without bothering to check for support or factual authenticity. This *may* be because of the source from which you seem to gain such aberrant data—the very source you tout as being the “true” news, and yet that which seems to be leading you astray as well as ending up at the lowest end of independent national polls.

In your response to Mr. Romolor, you indicated that you have been *told* that other news channels (described as “liberal”) actually tell their listeners *not* to watch Fox News. Since I watch many different news reports and have *never* been told not to watch Fox News, I’d like to know who told you that preposterous thing? You must be getting this from some whiz kid, hotshot, ultra-conservative radio talk show host hell-bent on one thing: getting you to rally to his/her “cause.”

You also claim your “fuzzy” math caused you to type trillion instead of billion. Even if you had typed billion, you still would have been *way* off the mark. I don’t believe it was “fuzzy” math at all—just mis-informed.

You stated that Obama and the Dems called the tea party and Republicans “terrorists” for making them cut spending. Obama actually proposed to *cut* spending by *four* trillion dollars, yet the “tea” party loyalists were the ones who refused to go for the bigger number because of a mis-guided concept on taxation (which they

DEADLINES

From Page 11

must begin all over again, including payment of new filing fees. For some, their money simply disappeared in a raft of excuses. This weekend we were consulted by someone who paid a substantial fee to a “document handler” who told her that she was qualified for an EB-3 visa (that’s the green card equivalent of an H-1B specialty occupation visa). Not only is she not qualified, but he didn’t tell her that right now the average processing time for EB-3 visas is six years, and worse for some countries. Check out the August Visa Bulletin at <http://tinyurl.com/5vsnxoq>.

Recently USCIS publicized its initiative to combat the unauthorized practice of law. As USCIS states, “the unauthorized practice of immigration law occurs when those who are not attorneys or accredited representatives:

- Provide legal assistance to applicants or petitioners in immigration matters.
- Charge more than a nominal fee.
- Hold themselves out to be qualified in legal matters.”

An accredited representative “must work for [a Board of Immigration Appeals-approved] non-profit, religious, charitable, social service or similar organization in the United States. He or she may only charge nominal (small) fees, if any, for legal services.”

For more information about finding legitimate legal services, see the USCIS fact sheet at <http://tinyurl.com/3bv78op>; for information about the USCIS initiative, go to <http://tinyurl.com/3cmskxo> and <http://tinyurl.com/3vvr89>.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

For information about the Team/Association, please contact me (Frank B. Camacho, president) at 483-0764 or our vice president, Mr. Nunu Sanchez, at 789-9247.

We hope and look forward to you joining us to work harder to make our village of Dandan a clean, healthy, and safe village for ourselves and visitors.

Frank B. Camacho
President

Rose C. White
Secretary

Members: Ben Matagolai; Mitch Aaron, treasurer; House Speaker Eli Cabrera, Mr. John San Nicolas, Mr. Eric Cruz, Joe Kaipat (DEQ), Phil Mendiola, Benny Sablan, Jun (Boom) T. Camacho, Alex Palacios, Rep. Joseph Palacios, Manny Muña; Nunu Sanchez, vice president. Bantam members: Gino Aaron, 8; Ignacio Mendiola, 9; Vince (Bing) Nakamura, 7; Kaiyo (KK) Nakamura, 7.

now say will probably be needed anyway) and *reduced* Obama’s proposed cuts all the way to *below one* trillion dollars! How ridiculous can you get?

Your rather pitiful attempts to paint the current administration as inept are nothing more than the repeated rhetoric of hard-line ultra-conservatives—a mere handful of extremists who have, of recent, been “downgraded” themselves to an approval rating of *less* than 12 percent, with over 85 percent disapproving of their actions even from within the Republican Party! As far as current events leading to a one-term president, well, the next election will tell. But it seems to me that there may well be a huge backlash against your pedestal worshippers that may actually sweep Obama *and* the Democrats to the biggest majority yet. Good luck—and leave Mr. Romolor alone too!

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
Winter Haven, FL

A joyful trip

Yes, the spiritual pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain, will strengthen faith no matter the religion. It is believing in God that’s important; and accepting God’s existence is growing in spirituality. In the past, I’ve been to Madrid. This also will uplift perspective. Fr. Jim Gould, Fr. Art Stoa, I share in your joyful trip for your 18 students. God bless everyone.

Suzanne McMillen-Fallon
Toledo, OH

Business

Google's patent play: \$12.5B for Motorola Mobility

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—It may be boldest move yet by a company known for being audacious: Google is spending \$12.5 billion to buy Motorola Mobility. But the big prize isn't Motorola's lineup of cellphones, computer tablets and cable set-top boxes.

It's Motorola's more than 17,000 patents—a crucial weapon in an intellectual arms race with Apple, Microsoft and Oracle to gain more control over the increasingly lucrative market for smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices.

If approved by federal regulators, the deal announced Monday could also trigger more multibillion-dollar buyouts. Nokia Corp., another cellphone manufacturer, and Research In Motion Ltd., which makes the BlackBerry, loom as prime targets.

The patents would help Google defend Android, its operating system for mobile devices, against a litany of lawsuits alleging that Google and its partners pilfered the innovations of other companies.

In addition to the existing trove of patents that attracted Google's interest, Motorola, which introduced its first cellphone nearly 30 years ago, has 7,500 others awaiting approval.

Phone makers and software companies are engaged in all-out combat over patents for



In this Feb. 2, 2011 file photo, a Motorola Mobility Xoom tablet is shown at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. AP

mobile devices. The tussle has been egged on by the U.S. patent system, which makes it possible to patent any number of phone features.

Patents can cover the smallest detail, such as the way icons are positioned on a smartphone's screen. Companies can own intellectual-property rights to the finger swipes that allow you to switch between applications or scroll through displayed text.

Apple, for example, has patented the way an application

expands to fill the screen when its icon is tapped. The maker of the iPhone sued Taiwan's HTC Corp. because it makes Android phones that employ a similar visual gimmick.

The iPhone's success triggered the patent showdown. Apple's handset revolutionized the way people interact with phones and led to copycat attempts, most of which relied on the free Android software that Google introduced in 2008.

Android revolves around

open-source coding that can be tweaked to suit the needs of different vendors. That flexibility and Android's growing popularity have fueled the legal attacks. About 550,000 devices running the software are activated each day.

Many upstart manufacturers, like HTC, had only small patent portfolios of their own, leaving them vulnerable to Apple Inc. and Microsoft Corp.

Getting Motorola's patents would allow Google to offer le-

gal cover for HTC and dozens of other device makers, including Samsung Electronics Co., that depend on Android.

The deal is by far the largest Google has pursued in its 13-year history. Motorola Mo-

bility's price tag exceeds the combined \$10.2 billion that the company has paid for 136 previous acquisitions since going public in 2004, according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Facebook submits evidence in ownership lawsuit

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Facebook attorneys late Monday revealed evidence that they say proves a New York man fabricated a contract that he says entitles him to part ownership of the \$50 billion social network.

Included in an after-hours court filing is an image of a two-page contract signed by Paul Ceglia of Wellsville, N.Y., and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg recovered by forensics experts from Ceglia's computer. The image is blurry and difficult to read but appears only to refer to a street-mapping database Ceglia hired Zuckerberg to work on in 2003—and not Facebook.

Ceglia's lawsuit against Zuckerberg is based on a contract that he says shows that when he hired Zuckerberg for the streets project, he also invested \$1,000 in the then-Harvard University student's fledgling Facebook idea on the condition he'd own half if it expanded.

From the beginning, Facebook has said the contract submitted by Ceglia was doctored. Now, attorneys said, they've got the original, retrieved from embedded electronic data.

Facebook alluded to the find as "smoking gun" evidence in earlier court filings but was barred from publicly identifying it by a confidentiality order which has since been modified.

"This smoking gun evidence confirms what defendants have said all along: the purported contract attached to the complaint is an outright fabrication," attorney Orin Snyder of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, wrote Monday.

Ceglia's attorney, Jeffrey Lake of San Diego, did not respond to an emailed request for comment from The Associated Press Monday night. Ceglia is in Ireland, according to emails he's written to his hometown newspaper, the Wellsville Daily Reporter.

Chamber urges businesses to take part in 2011 Survey of Wages, Salaries & Benefits

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is currently performing its 2011 Survey of Wages, Salaries & Benefits, where most businesses and government offices have received copies of the survey with instructions from SCC's contractor, The Guam Employers Council's Andy Andrus.

The survey and instructions were originally prepared for distribution at the end of July with a closing date of Sept. 9, 2011 for the return of all completed survey responses. SCC will begin supplying those organizations that participated in the 2011 Survey of Wages, Salaries & Benefits with the survey and benefits report by the end of September. Only those submitting completed survey responses to The Guam Employers Council will receive immediate access to the survey's final report at the end of September.

Although the 2011 Survey of

Wages, Salaries & Benefits can be utilized as a valuable tool for businesses in their companies future plans for employee salary and benefit packages, SCC accepted and is performing the project primarily for assistance in determining prevailing wage rates for foreign workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), while protecting local employees and their rightful jobs.

SCC is utilizing a methodology that has been formulated after careful communication with the United States Department of Labor and its Office of Foreign Labor Certification. Those that will petition the United States Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for employment visas under H-1 and H-1B categories will be able to utilize the material provided in SCC's achieved survey report as a part of that process.

The 2011 Survey of Wages, Salaries & Benefits is not only vital to that process, but serves all business and government as well. SCC sees this undertaking as an opportunity to initiate prevailing wage determinations reflective of the current real, economic climate in the CNMI, as opposed to that found in Los Angeles, Honolulu or Guam, and as an extremely valuable tool in keeping the cost of business affordable in these challenging economic times.

This message is aimed at all businesses and the CNMI government. Whether you are a member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Society of Human Resources Management, the Rotary Club, the bar association, a realtor, medical clinic, engineering firm, insurance firm, airline, newspaper,

golf course, school, tour agent, oil company, telecommunication firm or a government department or agency, this applies to you whether you will petition USCIS, or not.

Everyone needs to participate in this survey to assure the report is as valid, accurate and representative of current job classifications and wages and salaries in the CNMI as possible. Please complete your surveys and return them as soon as possible so we can meet our projected completion date.

For those that have not received their survey forms, those that would like to participate but were not on the original distribution list, or more importantly to those mistakenly believing this will not affect them, please contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at 233-7150/52, or at coordinator@saipanchamber.com, to participate in the SCC wage survey. (PR)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian stocks gain as US deals lift sentiment

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian stock markets mostly inched higher Tuesday after a round of corporate deals on Wall Street lifted sentiment following last week's gyrations. Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 0.3 percent to 9,116.33 and Hong's Hang Seng was 0.1 percent higher at 20,285.84. South Korea's market, which was closed for a holiday Monday, posted strong gains with the Kospi up 3.9 percent to 1,862.32. Benchmarks in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia were also higher.

Qantas to slash 1,000 jobs, start new Asia airline

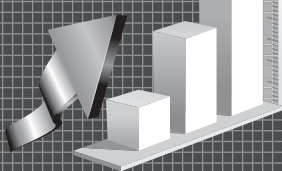
SYDNEY (AP)—Qantas Airways Ltd. said Tuesday it plans to cut up to 1,000 jobs as part of a major shakeup of its international business that will include the launch of a

new Asia-based airline. The flagship Australian carrier, which is struggling to offset losses from its international operations, will buy between 106 and 110 Airbus A320 aircraft, and retire older planes as part of the five-year plan. It will also defer the delivery of six Airbus A380 superjumbo planes for up to six years.

Oil falls to near \$87 as weeklong rally stalls

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell slightly to near \$87 a barrel Tuesday in Asia, pausing a weeklong rally amid investor optimism the global economy may not slow in the second half as much as feared. Benchmark oil for September delivery was down 40 cents to \$87.48 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude surged \$2.50 to settle at \$87.88 on Thursday.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,482.90	1,204.49	2,555.20
213.88	25.68	47.22
1.90%	2.18%	1.88%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms			
Australian Dollar	0.9545	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7914
British Pound	0.6112	Indian Rupee	45.1899
Canadian Dollar	0.9805	Indonesian Rupiah	8,522.50
Chinese Yuan	6.3871	Japanese Yen	76.8450
Euro	0.6936	Malaysian Ringgit	2.9576
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2004
		Philippine Peso	42.3300
		Singapore Dollar	1.2026
		South Korean Won	1,069.995
		Swiss Franc	0.7822
		Taiwan Dollar	28.8745
		Thailand Baht	29.6525

Nation

Obama attacks GOP field on bus tour

DECORAH, Iowa (AP)—Hitting back against an emboldened GOP, President Barack Obama launched a rare direct attack Monday on the Republican presidential field, criticizing his potential 2012 rivals for their blanket opposition to any deficit-cutting compromise involving new taxes.

"That's just not common sense," Obama told the crowd at a town hall-style meeting in Cannon Falls, Minn., as he kicked off a three-day bus tour through Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

"You've got to be willing to compromise to move the country forward," the president said later in the day as he delivered the same message at a town hall in Decorah, Iowa.

At the same time Obama was forced to defend his own record as Iowa voters asked him about all the compromises he's made with the GOP.

"I make no apologies for being reasonable," Obama declared as he stood in front of a cheery red barn, surrounded by bales of hay.

The president recalled a moment in last week's GOP presidential debate when all eight of the candidates said they would refuse to support a deal with tax increases, even if tax revenues were outweighed 10-to-1 by spending cuts.

Obama didn't mention any of the candidates by name, and prefaced the remark by saying, "I know it's not election season yet."

But his comment underscored that election season is indeed under way. The bus tour, al-



President Barack Obama poses for a photo with summer school kids, Monday, Aug. 15, 2011, in Chatfield, Minn., during his three-day economic bus tour.

though an official White House event rather than a campaign swing, is taking Obama through three states he won in 2008 but where he now needs to shore up his standing. It's giving him a chance to return to the grassroots campaigning that helped propel him to the White House, and shed his jacket and tie to mix it up with voters in coffee shops and lunch joints far from the Beltway—as he did in three unscheduled stops Monday, including one in a tree-lined Minnesota town where he was swarmed by enthusiastic kids.

The president is traveling in an imposing new \$1.1 million bus, outfitted with tinted windows and flashing lights, that the Secret Service purchased.

In Iowa, Obama returned to a state that handed him a key victory over Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton in their nomination fight but where Republicans have now been blanketing the state in preparation for its first-in-the-nation caucuses, attacking the president at every turn. The bus tour came on the heels of Rep. Michele Bachmann's weekend victory in the Iowa Straw Poll and Texas Gov. Rick Perry's contest-rattling entrance into the race.

It also came after the president spent much of the summer holed up in the nation's capital enmeshed in bitter, partisan negotiations on the debt crisis that cratered his approval ratings and those of Congress amid a

faltering economy and high unemployment.

The president got a rosy reception from his Minnesota audience, but Iowa voters were a tougher crowd, demanding to know why he'd compromised on principles important to Democrats, and asking to hear his plans for dealing with intransigent Republicans.

The president responded by pledging to present a specific jobs plan to Congress when lawmakers return from their summer recess in September. "And if they don't get it done, then we'll be running against a Congress that's not doing anything for the American people and the choice will be very stark and very clear," the president said.

San Francisco's subway closes stations amid several protests

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Rush-hour protests prompted the closure of four San Francisco subway stations and sent hundreds of commuters into the sidewalks and streets Monday, but no repeat of the wireless service shutdowns that angered protesters last week.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit agency has found itself in the middle of a raging debate over how far authorities should go to disrupt protests organized on social networks. The agency shut cellphone service last Thursday to quell a brewing protest on one of its platforms over police brutality.

Cellphone service was operating Monday night as an estimated 50 protesters gathered on the Civic Center Station platform chanting "no justice, no peace" shortly after 5 p.m. Thirty minutes later, police in riot gear and wielding batons closed the station and cleared the platform after protesters briefly delayed an east-bound train from departing.

From Civic Center, the protesters were joined by more demonstrators and marched down San Francisco's Market Street and attempted to enter to more stations. Officials closed those stations as well.

"Once the platform becomes unsafe, we can't jeopardize the safety of patrons and employees," BART Deputy Police Chief Dan Hartwig said.

Hundreds of people stood on the sidewalks and streets outside stations in the city's Financial District on Monday evening.

Many of the people appeared to be commuters.

"It a big disruption," said Nancy Armstrong, competing with others to flag a cab above the Civic Center station.

Ayanna Tate, of Oakland, was frustrated at not being able to take a BART train across the bay.

"I'm trying to get home! Take this someplace else," she said, referring to the protesters. "You've made your point! To everybody!"

Shortly after 7:30 p.m., three of the four downtown BART stations had re-opened.

Elijah Sparrow, a protester, called the demonstration "one of the defining battles of the 21st century over who is going to control communication."

The shutdown of wireless towers in stations near the protest last Thursday night helped raise questions about the role that social networks are playing in helping people, from Egypt to London, organize online. In the U.S., with its history of free speech, critics are saying BART's move was unconstitutional.

BART officials have said their primary concern was to ensure that passengers are safe.

"It's wrong," American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Michael Risher said. "There were better alternatives to ensure the public's safety."

Former BART director Michael Bernick applauded the move, saying it ensured a safe and uninterrupted commute Thursday night.

Safety questions loom over Indiana stage collapse

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Nathan Byrd was known as a daredevil, a wiry stagehand who would take on jobs no one else wanted. But one thing scared him: the quality of the canvas roof covering the stage at the Indiana State Fair.

"He said it scared the crap out of him all the time," said Randy Byrd, his older brother.

Byrd was working 20 feet above the stage Saturday night when a wind gust estimated at 60 to 70 mph toppled the roof and the metal scaffolding holding lights and other equipment. The stage collapsed onto a crowd of concert-goers awaiting a show by the country group Sugarland.

Byrd and four others were killed. Twenty-five people remained hospitalized Monday.

As the fair reopened Monday, investigators and the families of the dead and injured were still seeking answers to hard questions: Was the structure safe? Why were the thousands of fans not evacuated? Could anything have been done to prevent the tragedy?

State fair officials have not

said whether the stage and rigging were inspected prior to Saturday's show. Fair spokesman Andy Klotz said initially that the state fire marshal's office was responsible for inspections, but he backtracked Monday, saying he wasn't sure whose job it is.

A spokesman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security said neither the fire marshal nor Homeland Security officials conduct inspections. And the city does not have the authority to inspect items on state property.

"We do have our own requirements within the city for temporary structures, and we do have our own permitting requirements," said Kate Johnson, spokeswoman for the Indianapolis Department of Code Enforcement. "But in this situation, we don't have that authority because it's state-owned property."

As they investigate, inspectors for the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration will be looking at the weather and any potential structural or design flaws in the stage, among other things, experts said.

Another emerging issue is whether fair organizers responded quickly enough to forecasts of an approaching storm, especially since a different concert nearby was canceled because of the weather.

Just 15 miles north in the suburb of Fishers, about 6,700 people attending a performance by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra were evacuated Saturday from the Conner Prairie Amphitheater.

Tom Ramsey, the orchestra's vice president and general manager, said the group reviews information from a private weather company and consults with the National Weather Service, with a goal of giving patrons at least 30 minutes to get to their vehicles if bad weather threatens.

"We saw a storm that contained lightning dip south a little bit. Once we saw that, I made the decision to stop the concert and send everyone to their cars," he said.

At the fairgrounds, concert-goers and other witnesses said an announcer warned them of impending bad weather, but there were no warnings to clear the area.

Sugarland tour manager Hellen

Rollens decided to hold the band backstage. Manager Gail Gellman said others felt it was safe to go on stage, but Rollens ultimately acted on her intuition.

"As a tour manager, it's super important to understand what the weather conditions are when you play outside. We've always talked about not putting the band on during wind, lightning or heavy rain," said Gellman, who was in Las Vegas with another client that night.

Fair officials said the stage that collapsed is erected at the start of the fair each year to provide a framework on which performers can add their own lights or other features. The roof can be raised or lowered based on the act.

Saturday's accident was at least the fourth stage accident since the start of July. Earlier this month, wind blew over a lighting rig at a music festival in Tulsa, Okla., and lightning toppled a stage under assembly near Quebec City. That followed a summer gale that toppled a stage in July at a music festival in Ottawa, Canada, where the band Cheap Trick was performing. Three people were hospitalized.

ACROSS THE NATION

Loughner's attorneys ask court to halt medication

PHOENIX (AP)—Lawyers for the Tucson shooting rampage suspect again asked a court to halt the forced medication of their client with psychotropic drugs. Jared Lee Loughner's attorneys tell the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal on Monday that their client's due-process rights were violated when he was denied the chance to call a witness at a hearing at the Missouri prison where he is being held. Prison officials concluded Loughner should be medicated because his outbursts there posed a danger.

Record rains trap workers in flooded NYC elevator

NEW YORK (AP)—Two New York City construction workers barely escaped drowning in an elevator as storms dropped record rains over the weekend on parts of the nation's eastern half, washing out roads in New Jersey and forcing a small hospital in Ohio to move patients. One of the workers, cabinetmaker Ed Tyler, of Milltown, N.J., told The Associated Press on Monday that he and colleague Wendell Amaker, of Roselle, N.J., were happy to be alive after their ordeal.

Chlorine leak injures 20 at Sacramento water park

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Twenty people, including nine children, were taken to Sacramento-area hospitals Monday after a high concentration of chlorine was released into the wave pool at Raging Waters, a private water park at the state fairgrounds in Sacramento. At least two of the victims had serious respiratory complaints or complaints of burning eyes, said Sacramento City Fire Department Assistant Chief Niko King. Three of those taken to hospitals were park employees. "It started out with just a few people with complaints of burning respiratory tracts and eyes," King said.

Asia



AP
In this March 10, 2005 photo, Bataan Death March survivor Albert Brown speaks with members of the SIUC Army ROTC at his daughter's home in Pinckneyville, Ill.

Oldest survivor of Bataan Death March dies at 105

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A doctor once told Albert Brown he shouldn't expect to make it to 50, given the toll taken by his years in a Japanese labor camp during World War II and the infamous, often-deadly march that got him there. But the former dentist made it to 105, embodying the power of a positive spirit in the face of inordinate odds.

"Doc" Brown was nearly 40 in 1942 when he endured the Bataan Death March, a harrowing 65-mile trek in which 78,000 prisoners of war were forced to walk from Bataan province near Manila to a Japanese POW camp. As many as 11,000 died along the way. Many were denied food, water and medical care, and those who stumbled or fell during the scorching journey through Philippine jungles were stabbed, shot or beheaded.

But Brown survived and secretly documented it all, using a nub of a pencil to scrawl details into a tiny tablet he concealed in the lining of his canvas bag. He often wondered why captives so much younger and stronger perished, while he went on.

By the time he died Sunday at a nursing home in southern Illinois' Nashville, Brown's story was well-chronicled, by one author's account offering an encouraging road map for veterans recovering from their own wounds in many wars.

"Doc's story had as much relevance for today's wounded warriors as it did for the veterans of his own era," said Kevin Moore, co-author of the recently released "Forsaken Heroes of the Pacific War: One Man's True Story," which details Brown's experience.

"The underlying message for today's returning veterans is that there's hope, not to give in no matter how bleak the

moment may seem," added Moore, whose nephew just returned from military duty in Afghanistan. "You will persevere and can find the promise of a new tomorrow, much like Doc had found."

Brown, recognized in 2007 at an annual convention of Bataan survivors as the oldest one still living, couldn't muster the strength to talk about his experiences until about 15 or so years ago, said his granddaughter, Susan Engelhardt of Pinckneyville, Ill.

"I'm not a big military buff at all. But just reading the story about the death march and the situation in the Philippines, it's an incredible story. And incredibly sad," Engelhardt said. "He's an incredible man, and he had an incredible legacy. He came through horrible times and came out on top, rebuilding his life. But so many of those men and women triumphed."

Brown's account described the torment that came about every mile as the marchers passed wells U.S. troops dug for natives but weren't allowed to drink from once they became prisoners. Filipinos who tried to throw fruit to the marchers frequently were killed.

Brown remained in a POW camp from early 1942 until mid-September 1945, living solely on rice. The once-athletic man—he lettered in baseball, football, basketball and track in high school—saw his weight whither by some 80 pounds to less than 100 by the time he was freed. Lice and disease were rampant.

Despite the hardships, Brown focused on bright spots, including a prisoner called on to fix Japanese soldiers' radios. The prisoner managed to steal radio parts, scraping together enough components to build a func-

tioning unit of his own. Brown helped craft a listening tube for the device, which brought the captives news from San Francisco that the U.S. actually had won a battle the Japanese soldiers were celebrating as a naval victory.

"He had this incredible spirit to live and overcome," Moore said. "Positive thinking or whatever you call it, he survived."

Born in 1905 in North Platte, Neb., Brown was the godson of Wild West folk hero "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who often let the boy sit on his lap and tug his beard. Brown moved with his family to Council Bluffs, Iowa, after his father—a railroad engineer—died when a locomotive engine exploded.

He studied dentistry at Creighton University in the 1920s and was called to active duty in 1937, leaving behind a wife, children and a decade-old dental practice his war injuries prevented him from resuming.

By the time the war ended in 1945, the 40-year-old Brown was nearly blind, had weathered a broken back and neck and suffered through more than a dozen diseases including malaria, dysentery and dengue fever.

He took two years to mend, and a doctor told him to enjoy the next few years because he had been so decimated he would be dead by 50. But Brown soldiered on, moving to California, attending college again and renting out properties to the era's biggest Hollywood stars, including Joan Fontaine and Olivia de Havilland. He became friends with John Wayne and Roy Rogers, doing some screen tests along the way.

"I think he had seen so much horror that after the war, he was determined to enjoy his life," Moore said.

World

Bombs tear through 17 Iraqi cities, 63 killed

BAGHDAD (AP)—A relentless barrage of bombings killed 63 people Monday in the most sweeping and coordinated attack Iraq has seen in over a year, striking 17 cities from northern Sunni areas to the southern Shiite heartland.

The surprising scope and sophistication of the bloodbath suggested that al-Qaida remains resilient despite recent signs of weakness. Such attacks, infrequent as they are deadly, will likely continue long after American forces withdraw from the country.

"This is our destiny," said Eidan Mahdi, one of more than 250 Iraqis wounded Monday. Mahdi was lying in a hospital bed in the southern city of Kut. One of his eyes was closed shut with dried blood, and burns covered his hands and head.

While some Iraqis expressed resignation, others voiced fury at security officials and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

"Where is the government with all these explosions across the country? Where is al-Maliki? Why doesn't he come to see?" said Ali Jumaa Ziad, a Kut shop owner. Ziad was brushing pieces of human

flesh from the floor and off equipment in his shop.

The bombs went off on a hot and sunny morning as people were headed to work. Explosive devices were planted in the vests of suicide attackers, in parked cars, along the sides of roads and even on light poles.

No group immediately claimed responsibility, but the simultaneous attacks, the targeting of Shiite civilians and Iraqi security forces and the use of suicide bombers indicated that al-Qaida in Iraq was responsible.

That the terror group was able to pull off such an attack, spanning half of Iraq's 18 provinces, came as somewhat of a surprise.

A little over a year ago, U.S. and Iraqi officials said the deaths of al-Qaida in Iraq's two top leaders in a raid had dealt a severe blow to the organization. The group has suffered from a drop in funding and just last week was calling on former members to come back to the fold, a sign of the group's diminished status.

But time and again, al-Qaida in Iraq has shown an ability to resurrect itself.

"Al-Qaida in Iraq has been resting and waiting and is now making itself heard to both disrupt the internal Iraqi political process and send a message to the Americans, which have called al-Qaida in Iraq dead and buried," said Theodore Karasik, a Middle East security expert at the Dubai-based Institute for Near East and Gulf Military Analysis.

Monday's violence came less than two weeks after Iraqi officials said they would discuss with the U.S. whether to have some American forces stay in the country past their Dec. 31 withdrawal deadline. U.S. officials have offered to keep about 10,000 of the 46,000 American soldiers currently here into next year if Iraq agrees.

Karasik said the timing may be no coincidence, and that al-Qaida may be using reverse psychology. Greater violence could lead to calls for the U.S. to extend its military presence, but the terror group knows that the U.S. is very unlikely to resume a full-scale combat mission and that the troop numbers would be too small to make much of a difference.

Libyan rebels try to isolate Tripoli, Gadhafi

ZAWIYA, Libya (AP)—Libya's rebels threatened to isolate Tripoli by blocking key supply routes and cutting oil pipelines on Monday after a dramatic weekend advance put them in the strongest position since the 6-month-old civil war began to attack Moammar Gadhafi's stronghold.

In Washington, the Obama administration said the U.S. was encouraged by the rebel advances and hoped they had broken a monthslong stalemate with Gadhafi's forces.

"We are closing the roads for Gadhafi so there is no way for him to bring anything to Tripoli," a rebel field com-

mander, Jumma Dardira, told The Associated Press.

The rebels' push into the strategic city of Zawiya on Saturday brought them within 30 miles of Tripoli, the closest they have ever gotten. After three days of fierce battles for the city of 200,000 on the Mediterranean coast, rebel commanders said they controlled the south and west of the city and were fighting for the refineries. Oil-rich Libya's only functioning refineries are in Zawiya.

Nuri el-Bouaisi, an oil production engineer in the city, said rebels had cut off pipelines that transport gasoline

and diesel fuel to Tripoli.

"We shut down all four pipelines to Tripoli," said el-Bouaisi, whose claim could not be verified.

The rebels are also determined to cut key supply routes to Tripoli from the Ras Ajdir border crossing with Tunisia in the west and from the south, where Libya borders Chad and Niger. These are critical lifelines with NATO imposing a no-fly zone over the country.

Over the past two days, a number of rebel officials have claimed that they either cut or were close to cutting those two routes. However that could not be immediately confirmed.

UN: Palestinians flee refugee camp in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—More than 5,000 Palestinian refugees have fled a camp in the besieged Syrian city of Latakia after President Bashar Assad's forces shelled the city during a broad military assault to root out dissent, the U.N. said Monday.

UNRWA, the U.N. agency that aids Palestinian refugees, said the Palestinians fled after Latakia came under fire from gunboats cruising off the coast and ground troops attacking the city over the weekend. It was not immediately clear

where the refugees were seeking shelter.

"We are calling for access to the camp to find out what is going on," said UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness. "There were 10,000 refugees in the camp and we need to find out what is happening to them."


Assad has dramatically escalated the crackdown on a 5-month-old uprising since the start of the holy month of Ramadan, when many Muslims fast from dawn to dusk. Despite blistering international

outrage, the regime is trying to establish firm control in rebellious areas by unleashing tanks, snipers and—in a new tactic—gunships.

On Monday, Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called on Syria to immediately end the bloodshed and threatened unspecified "steps" if it fails to do so.

"If the operations do not end, there would be nothing more to discuss about steps that would be taken," Davutoglu said, without elaborating.

Focus

Japan towns
hit hardest by
tsunami stuck
in limbo


In this photo taken June 13, 2011, Takako Abe, right, clutches her walker as she stands on a hillside overlooking the devastated town of Minamisanriku, Japan. "I don't really want to live here, but I've spent so many years in this town," says Abe, who came to Minamisanriku more than four decades ago as a 23-year-old bride. AP

MINAMISANRIKU, Japan (AP)—Gazing down on the gray, rubble-strewn valley, as a backhoe lifts twisted metal into one of hundreds of piles, Takako Abe clutches her walker and points to where her house once stood.

From the same hill, she and scores of others watched a huge tsunami obliterate the Japanese fishing town of Minamisanriku on March 11. By June, she could see a few signs of rebirth. The main roads had been cleared, and cars pulled up to gasoline pumps powered by humming generators. Workers raised telephone poles, and about 1,200 temporary houses had gone up.

Still the recovery is only inching along in the hardest-hit towns. Many survivors remain in limbo, gripped by deep fears and uncertainties that raise questions about Minamisanriku's future. Nearly 1,200 of its 18,000 residents are dead or missing. Hundreds more have left to live with relatives or seek jobs elsewhere. Those who remain are conflicted.

"I don't really want to live here, but I've spent so many years in this town," says Abe, who came to Minamisanriku more than four decades ago as a 23-year-old bride.

Her former neighbor, 74-year-old Kiyoo Sato, comes over to chat. Together they look out at mountains of crumpled cars, concrete and wood.

"Can my grandchildren work and live here?" Sato wonders out loud.

Many speak of a deep bond with this town, where families have lived for generations. But what will the reconstruction plan will look like? How will they survive until the town is rebuilt? Will another tsunami hit?

"I'm not sure if we can return," says Sato, who lost his wife in the tsunami. "We need to see what the authorities decide. It's hard to know the future."

While death and destruction was severe along much of Japan's north-eastern coast, a handful of communities face a particularly uncertain future. One is Minamisanriku; others include Rikuzentakata and Otsuchi, both farther to the north.

They stand out because more than half their residents died or were left homeless, their town centers were destroyed, and government was paralyzed by the loss of so many officials and documents.

Already, these towns are falling behind. In the less damaged Ofunato, for example, the fish market reopened in July.

"The gap is widening and affecting the pace of the reconstruction process, and people in worse-off towns are really worried whether they can recover," says Junichi Hirota, a professor at Iwate University and a member of a government reconstruction study group.

Up and down the coast there is talk of rebuilding better than before—towns and cities less polluted, better protected from tsunamis and more easily navigable by aging populations.

Reconstruction also could be an opportunity to create jobs if the processing and sales of fish and farm products can be expanded, Hirota says.

But the extent of the damage means it may be as long as three years before people can start building permanent homes again. Fishermen, their lives wedded to the sea, may wait it out, Hirota says. Others may despair and leave.

At the water's edge, where seagulls sit on the skeleton of the destroyed fish market and warehouses, 52-year-old Choya Goto fixes a boom on his fishing boat, bent from lifting debris out of the harbor.

A third-generation fisherman, he represents the town's chief source of in-

come. He has lost friends, home, truck and just about everything else, but considers himself fortunate.

"I only have my boat and my family, but I'm happy," he says with a smile, standing near his 22-year-old son, Yuuki.

His is one of only 50 boats out of 1,000 that survived intact—and only because he remembered the advice of old-timers and took it out to sea immediately after the tsunami warning sirens wailed. From the bay, he watched the waves hit his town.

When he returned the next day, weaving around entire houses and other debris, he found the unimaginable: Virtually the whole town had disappeared.

He's eager to get back to fishing, but says the outlook is so unclear that planning is impossible. "We don't even have basic necessities like food, clothing ...," he says. "It's not that I don't want to return, it's whether we really can live here."

The mayor, Jin Sato, knows that reviving the fishing industry is crucial to Minamisanriku's survival. At the battered docks, he proudly points to a half-built structure meant to be a temporary market and warehouse. He hopes to bring back not just fishing but also the thousands of tourists who visited the picturesque cove every year.

"That's the start of our economic rebuilding," he says. "Once the fishermen can work again, people will eventually come back to eat good salmon, abalone, oysters and seaweed."

He knows residents are impatient for a plan, but he is proceeding deliberately, wary of imposing anything from above. The town is holding meetings with experts and residents to have a reconstruction plan by the fall.

"I'm not really in a position to say,

"We're going to do this or that,"" says the mayor, dressed in a blue work shirt and white running shoes. "We're gathering everyone's opinions."

He understands from personal experience the trauma this disaster has inflicted. He still can't bring himself to revisit the spot where he narrowly survived—the rooftop of the three-story disaster prevention center where about 30 of his colleagues were swept to their deaths.

Only once, when Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard visited, has he been back to the building, reduced to a frame of steel girders tangled with nets, large orange buoys and other debris. He wants to keep it that way as a memorial and warning.

At 59, the mayor is old enough to remember the 1960 tsunami, spawned by an earthquake in far-off Chile, that killed 41 in his town. He believes physical reconstruction alone isn't enough.

"If you don't pay attention to matters of the heart, people won't feel like starting over," he says. "Minamisanriku has a deep tradition and strong bonds within its community. We need to tap into that to recover."

Back up the hill, 82-year-old Keikoh Yamauchi, in jaunty cap and white goatee, sits with his wife Misao on the steps of his temporary home.

It is one of 102 prefabs built in tidy rows next to a middle school baseball field. Laundry hangs on clotheslines, and potted flowers add a touch of home.

Each unit of two small rooms, kitchen and bathroom comes with a microwave, washing machine, TV, rice cooker, air conditioner, refrigerator and futon bedding—provided by the Japanese Red Cross Society and others. The town aims to build 2,300 units by mid-August.

"It's a little cramped inside, but it's very well made. It's really quite nice,"

Yamauchi says.

After months of communal living in the school gym, the small houses provide a modicum of privacy and autonomy. But they also mean utility bills and shopping for food—a challenge with the nearest supermarkets about a 40-minute drive away. The Yamauchis have borrowed a car from their grandson to get around.

A half-dozen of their former neighbors live in the same housing cluster, but others have moved to temporary homes farther away, fraying the sense of community.

Looking ahead, the couple insist their home must be rebuilt on higher ground.

Having survived two tsunamis, "We don't want to live down in the valley again," says Misao, 80.

Across the baseball field, Yaeko Tabata, her younger sister Yuko and a friend have just finished preparing lunch—rice balls, ham slices and instant noodles—for the dwindling number of survivors in the gym.

The sisters ran a hairdressing salon, which was wiped out in the tsunami. Impatient to rebuild their lives, they are unsure whether to stay here or move on.

"If we knew what the plans were for the town, then we could have a better idea of what we should do," says the elder Tabata, an energetic woman in her 50s. She recently was selected through a lottery system to get a temporary home 5 kilometers (3 miles) out of town.

Sitting in a blue tent, the three women joke and laugh. It's a psychological weapon against despair.

"If we think about the disaster too long, we just start crying," Yaeko Tabata says.

"Laughter makes us more positive," their friend, Ikuko Abe, adds. "If I cried, then I'd just fall apart."

Campus Life

NMC nursing graduate passes NCLEX on first try

A Northern Marianas College nursing graduate recently passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses, or NCLEX-RN, on her the first try. Julie Hall took the exam on July 26, 2011, about a month after she received her degree in Nursing.

Hall describes her experiences at NMC and in the nursing program as both “challenging and very fulfilling.” As an NMC student, Hall was an active member of NMC Nursing Club and participated in various health screenings and health outreach events in the community. Hall was also recognized at the 2011 NMC Nursing Graduates Pinning Ceremony and given the academic excellence award. She later graduated from NMC *magna cum laude*.

“I think it is important for everybody to know that I’m 36 years old, a wife, and a mother of three children, and I was able to accomplish something that I never dreamed was possible 10 years ago,” said Hall. “If I can do it, I’m sure other people can do it too.”

Although Hall took time to rest for “ap-



Julie Hall graduated from NMC *magna cum laude*, with a degree in Nursing.

proximately two weeks” after graduating in May from NMC, she began reviewing for the NCLEX-RN with fellow nursing graduates in a review course coordinated by the CNMI Area Health Education Center, in collaboration with the Community Development Institute.

The NCLEX-RN tests an individual’s nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all

50 U.S. states and all U.S. territories to award nurse licenses. Licensed nurses may have their credentials endorsed by a state or a territory’s board upon meeting board requirements without having to retake the exam.

“I can’t say enough how critical passing the NCLEX-RN is to beginning a career as a registered nurse and that it is also a very difficult exam,” said NMC Nursing department chair Rosa M. Tudela. “We are very happy for Julie for passing the NCLEX on her first try and for working hard to accomplish this in only a few weeks.”

“My accomplishments would not be possible if not for my teachers and mentors at the NMC Nursing department, and Emily Young for her support,” said Hall. “Most of all, I want to thank and express my appreciation to my kids and my husband for their understanding, kindness, and patience during such stressful times.”

Hall currently hopes to begin working as a nurse as soon as possible. She is also considering pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Nursing. (NMC)

NMC fall 2011 registration ongoing this week

Registration for the Northern Marianas College’s fall 2011 semester will be ongoing this week until Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011. Ongoing students can register on the day designated for their Power-Campus ID number. New and readmitted students can begin registering for classes on Friday, Aug. 19, 2011.

New students are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can obtain the required slip from the English and Math departments and meet with their academic advisers. NMC academic advisers will help new students fill in registration forms and create class schedules. Students can then finish the registration process in NMC’s Room D-1.

Application for admissions will still be accepted until the last day of registration on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2011, provided that both placement tests have been taken. Students may reg-

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

- Aug. 17, Wednesday: Registration for students with PC No. 000011881 through 000013720
- Aug. 18, Thursday: Registration for students with PC No. 000013721 through 000015790
- Aug. 19, Friday: Registration for all new, and other ongoing and readmitted students
- Aug. 20, Saturday: Late registration for all new, and other ongoing and readmitted students

ister between 9am and 6pm, Monday through Friday, and between 9am and 12pm on Saturday.

Ongoing students must clear any outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the NMC Library and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To

ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

- Aug. 17, Wednesday: 9am – 4pm, Building M
- Aug. 18, Thursday: 9am – 6pm, Building M
- Aug. 19, Friday: 9am – 4pm, Building M

MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE

- Aug. 18, Thursday: 10am – 12pm, Room A-9
- 5pm – 7pm, Room A-9

find out if any balances exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1537.

For more information about the placement tests and registration for the fall 2011 semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

CAMPUS BULLETIN

UOG fall semester begins Aug. 17

The first day of the fall 2011 semester begins today, Aug. 17, at the University of Guam. Saturday classes begin Aug. 20. Students may add or drop classes Aug. 17 – 23. The payment deadline is Aug. 25 and students should sign a Time Option Payment Plan, pay in full, or have applied for federal financial aid by that date. (UOG)

Chacha Jr. High School 7-8 graders orientation on Sept. 2

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School will be having an orientation for 7th and 8th grade students on Sept. 2, 2011, from 9:30am to 10:30am in the cafeteria. Call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. (PR)

Kagman High orientation schedule

Kagman High School will be holding an orientation for freshmen and sophomores on Aug. 25, 2011. The freshmen orientation will be from 9am to 10am, while the sophomore orientation will be from 10:30am to 11:30am. The orientation for juniors and seniors will be on Aug. 26, 2011. Juniors will have their orientation from 9am to 10am, while seniors will have theirs from 10:30am to 11:30am. For more information, call the KHS main office at 237-3840. (KHS)

Registration info for Saipan Southern High

Saipan Southern High School students who have been elevated from Junior High are not officially enrolled if your parents/ legal guardians did not submit a registration form. Pick up forms from the counseling office and submit ASAP for your child to be enrolled in SSHS. All returning students that attended SSHS last year must return all textbooks and settle all obligations with the school, before you can pick up your class schedule.

Schedules are to be picked up at the Counseling Office as follows:

- Seniors, 12th Grade, Aug. 22, Monday, 9am-4pm
- Juniors, 11th Grade, Aug. 23 Tuesday, 9am-4pm
- Sophomores-10th Grade, Aug. 24 Wednesday, 9am-4pm

All transfer and new students enrolling at SSHS in grades 10, 11, and 12 are required to attend an orientation on Aug. 25, Thursday, 9am-4pm, with their parents or legal guardians. Freshman student orientation on Aug. 26 will be held in two different sessions--from 9am-11am and from 1pm-3pm. Attend only one session with parents or legal guardians. No students will be allowed to attend the orientation without parents or legal guardians in attendance.

For more information, call the SSHS principal directly at 237-3702 or the SSHS main office at 664-4000. (SSHs)

Top 10 tips for ‘going back to school’

By EILEEN WACKER
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Well, we are surviving the summer with our kids. But as I look out on the horizon, the “back to school” tidal wave is approaching fast. We have four kids in three different schools entering 8th, 7th, 4th and 3rd grade so we have great personal stress related to the kids returning to school. But we have learned an important lesson: getting ready for a new school year is one of the biggest transitions our kids make and they can experience anxiety.

When we talk to our kids, they are not typically worried about the next batch of teachers—but they say they are reluctant to return to school because of all the “homework” and “hard work.” They are, in effect, worried about the “expectations” and measuring up. So we’ve decided to try to shape positive expectations using some of these approaches:

1 Send the teacher an email—if possible work with your child and send from him/her. Do not lobby at all in the email, just write a friendly, ‘I am ready for the new school year and looking forward to being in your class’ note. This is especially helpful for a shy child as the teacher will normally respond with a quick email back and the child will experience the first personal connection. Remember, teachers use their own personal time to set up their classrooms so do not stop by to chat unless you are sure they welcome this.

2 Understand the school’s electronics policy and get your child ready. Since technology is moving so quickly, policies shift quickly to adapt. Do they allow laptops and cell phones? Are the cell phone ringers turned off but texting is allowed? Use something sharp to scratch your child’s name onto any device that leaves your home. If a device gets misplaced, you want it to come back and you want your child to recognize their device on sight and be able to prove it is his or hers.

3 Plan out breakfast for the entire first week. The menu should consist of what they will actually eat. Our youngest two want macaroni and cheese and chunky soup for breakfast, so we let them eat it. It is a warm meal (and fairly healthy) and we feel better knowing they have something in their stomachs. Especially with young teens—if they want pop tarts or something they can eat standing up, fine. Using logic about energy and concentration only leads to a battle in our house.

4 For elementary school kids, find one child in his/her new class they are “glad about” and have a play date with him/her. Children worry a lot that there may be “no one they like” or that they will have no one to talk to and play with. And, you can emphasize that he/she can still see their “bestie” at recess, lunch and after school.

5 If there are back to school “supply lists,” incorporate into something fun and let them handle the money. I have my kids go with the babysitter to the school supply

store then get ice cream or lunch afterwards. They like to pick their own stuff, and they especially like to pay (and it starts teaching them what things cost!).

6 Think about your individual child’s personality and strengths and weaknesses. Actually think through a few reasons you are sure this is going to be a great year for him/her. For example, our oldest child struggles to get good test grades. So we emphasize she has amazing organization skills and always gets her homework done.

7 Make an agreement with each child about how you will wake them up. One of our kids likes to get carried to the kitchen and placed in a chair. Another uses an alarm clock while another wants the shades opened up. Being organized and getting up and out on time are big challenges. Don’t forget, all clothes should be laid out the night before and backpacks readied to go.

8 Back to school outfits and first day pomp and circumstance are outdated concepts. The perfectly groomed first grader wearing sensible new shoes with perfectly cut hair smiling for cameras on the first day is too stressful. We buy items based on when they are on sale not necessarily for back to school. Label their treasured clothes so they’re less likely to end up in the Lost and Found and skip the first day ceremony.

9 End the first week with a celebration! We go to dinner and take small video clips of a funny interview with each child. We ask what their favorite things were the first week and to make an imitation of the teacher. Then we email their clips to them—they think they are so funny and enjoy watching themselves endlessly.

10 We put small notes in their backpacks, sports bag or lunch. We write things like “you are brave” or “have the best day ever.” We ask open ended questions every day and try not to correct them when they answer. Who do you sit next to in class now? What was lunch like? What’s your new teacher like? Now that we know what we CAN do, some words on what to avoid—on the first day of your new job, you would not want anyone to yell at you or demand you eat what they have cooked. You would not want anyone to criticize what you are wearing or how your hair looks. You would NOT want to be late. You would not want to enter the new office crying. These must be avoided at all costs. We all yell at our children; but let’s not yell in the morning on that first week of school.

The back to school drama is coming but you can send an excited child to school with optimism for a new year. And p.s. I do agree with my kids—there is too much homework! I just don’t tell them.

Eileen Wacker lives in Honolulu, Hawaii, with her husband and four children. She is the author of the new children’s book, Pink Hamster and the Birthday Surprise, the fourth installment of the award winning Fujimini Adventure Series. For additional information on the series, please visit www.oncekids.com.

Life & Style

Anton Yelchin is ready for 'Fright Night'

By FRANK LOVECE
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK—As Chekhov in “Star Trek” and Kyle Reese in “Terminator Salvation,” Anton Yelchin has had featured roles in two of the movies’ biggest franchises. And what with voicing Clumsy Smurf in the surprise hit “The Smurfs,” he seems primed for a third. Following “Fright Night,” a major-studio remake of the 1985 vampire-next-door flick, opening Friday, he’ll appear in the latest of his string of indie movies: “Like Crazy,” a largely improv drama that won special and grand jury prizes at Sundance.

In “Fright Night,” Yelchin, 22, who emigrated with his professional ice-skater parents from the Soviet Union as a child, plays Charley Brewster, a teen who finds that neighbor Jerry (Colin Farrell) is a vampire—and not a soulful, glittering one but rather, as one character says, “the shark from ‘Jaws.’”

Yelchin, who grew up in Southern California, spoke by phone from Albuquerque, where the actor is filming the title role in “Odd Thomas,” based on the Dean Koontz novel.

Q. In the “Twilight” films and TV shows like “True Blood,” vampires are now good-guy romantic leads. But Jerry’s predatory not just in the way of traditional vampires, but also

like modern, sociopathic serial killers. Do you think “Fright Night” may start to steer vampires back toward being seen as evil?

A. I don’t know if it will steer the whole current back that way, but I’m very glad that I’m part of this film because most of the vampires I prefer don’t appear in suburban melodramas. I prefer monster films. He’s a monster and I appreciate the fact that (the film) brings (the vampire archetype) back to its original connotation as a dark force, as opposed to this suburban-melodrama bull you see everywhere.

Q. Like the first “Fright Night,” this isn’t purely a horror film. Maybe a little like “Scream,” it’s self-aware about vampire pop mythology. There are a lot of ironically amusing and ruefully amusing bits.

A. The script (by Marti Noxon, of TV’s “Buffy the Vampire Slayer”) is a lot of fun, but at the same time it had a very relatable story arc for my character—the idea of losing sight of your values for a period of time, and trying to figure out what is valuable to you versus something else. It doesn’t have to be specifically Charley’s story, but it’s a very common theme.

Q. Could you relate to it yourself, as a coming-of-age story?

A. Well, I never had a vampire move in next door.



AP/DREAMWORKS PICTURES

In this film image released by Disney-DreamWorks Pictures, Anton Yelchin is shown in a scene from the horror film “Fright Night.”

Q. Nor a Smurf, I imagine. How’s that for a segue? You do the voice of Clumsy Smurf in “The Smurfs,” so I can’t help wondering: How would he take on Jerry?

A. Considering he’s, like, 3 inches tall and Jerry’s a vicious, destructive vampire, I’m sure you can imagine it for yourself. I’m sure he would slip and that would be the end of it.

Q. Chris Sarandon, the vampire in the original “Fright Night,” has a cameo. Did you or the other cast members speak with him, maybe get insights or some great war stories?

A. He was on set and he spoke briefly

then (about the original film). I know him from (the 1975 film) “Dog Day Afternoon” (as the pre-operative transsexual “wife” of Al Pacino’s character), so I really appreciated being able to see him because of that. I’ve been a big fan for a long time of “Dog Day Afternoon.”

Q. How about when you played Chekhov in “Star Trek”—did you get a chance to speak with (original TV Chekhov) Walter Koenig?

A. Yeah. We didn’t trade stories, but we met on set and I really enjoyed speaking with him, and he has such a legacy and he’s a very nice man. And I

think he enjoyed the work that we did.

Q. The character has a comically exaggerated Russian accent. Did you use your own accent to build on it?

A. I don’t have an accent.

Q. Well, yeah, not now. But growing up?

A. I came here when I was, like, 2!

Q. OK, you’re not going to believe this, but so did I, from Argentina. And come to think, I don’t have an accent, either. But, y’know, we could’ve. Any word on the next “Star Trek”?

A. No idea. We’re going to make the film at a certain point and when we do, I’ll be there and look forward to it.



AP
In this photo provided by Museum Bredius in The Hague, Netherlands on Monday, Aug. 15, 2011, a painting entitled “The Marriage of Tobias and Sarah” by Jan Steen is seen.

Dutch city settles on looted Jan Steen painting

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Lawyers for the U.S. heir of a Jewish art dealer who lost many paintings while fleeing the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands say she has settled with The Hague municipality on a valuable work by Jan Steen.

The lawyers say Marei von Saher will receive euro1 million (\$1.4 million) and donate her share in the painting “The Marriage of Tobias and Sarah” to a Hague museum.

The piece has an unusual history: it was cut in two before the war and painstakingly restored in the 1990s—before von Saher’s claim to the larger part was established by the Dutch state in 2006.

The painting will be displayed at the Museum Bredius in memory of von Saher’s father-in-law, Jacques Goudstikker.

City spokeswoman Esther Andoetoe confirmed the settlement Monday.

Rembrandt drawing stolen from California hotel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 17th Century drawing by Rembrandt was snatched from a private art display at a California luxury hotel while a curator was momentarily distracted, officials said Monday.

The theft of the \$250,000 sketch from the lobby of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in the upmarket seaside community of Marina del Rey happened around 10:30 p.m. Saturday night while someone who seemed interested in buying another piece held the curator’s attention for a few minutes.

“When the curator turned back to the Rembrandt, it was gone,” Los Angeles County sheriff’s spokesman Steve Whitmore said. It was not clear whether the person talking to the curator was connected to the theft, though Whitman said a team of at least two people was involved.

The sketch, called “The Judgment,” was completed around 1655 and is signed on the back by the Dutch master. Rembrandt von Rijn is widely regarded as one of the finest painters in European art history and his worldwide name recognition has made his work a common target for thieves.

“Rembrandt is a name that criminals know or should know,” said Chris Marinello, executive director of the London-based Art Loss Register, an international database of stolen art-

works. “When they come across one, they see dollar signs.”

Marinello said the theft was likely a crime of opportunity and not an operation carried at the command of a mysterious criminal with a private art collection, as is often depicted in movies.

“Hollywood would love us to believe there are paintings being ordered stolen,” he said. “We have yet to find that.”

Artworks tend to surface either very quickly after they are stolen or else disappear into the underworld where they are traded between criminals at a fraction of their value for drugs and other illicit materials, Marinello said.

The sketch was being displayed on an easel or wooden stand and was apparently not fastened down in any way, Whitmore said.

He described the theft as well-executed, “but not executed well enough to get away with,” adding that investigators had several strong leads and that detectives were looking at video surveillance from the hotel.

Ritz-Carlton spokeswoman Vivian Deuschl said she could not comment because the theft was a police matter.

A sketch artist was putting together a suspect composite drawing based on witness accounts. It will be released at the end of the week.

The drawing was part of an exhibit at the hotel sponsored by the Linearis In-

stitute based in the San Francisco Bay area community of Hercules. Messages left Monday weren’t returned.

The stolen sketch was drawn with a quill pen and depicts what appears to be a court scene with a man prostrating himself before a judge.

Marinello said the artist thieves most commonly target is Picasso because of the volume of the Spanish painter’s work and his name recognition.

In July, a thief walked into a San Francisco gallery and snatched a Picasso sketch valued at more than \$200,000. The arrest of the suspect ultimately led police to a trove of other stolen artworks in a New Jersey apartment.

In 1990, two criminals posing as police officers robbed the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum during the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Boston. Marinello said the works, which included Rembrandt’s only seascape, had a combined worth of as much as \$500,000. Those paintings are still missing.

Anthony Amore, chief investigator at the museum and co-author of the book “Stealing Rembrandts,” told the Los Angeles Times there have been 81 documented thefts of the artist’s work in the past 100 years.

Marina del Rey is a sprawling community and small-boat harbor on Santa Monica Bay, less than 20 miles from downtown Los Angeles.

Sugarland likely saved by tour manager's decision

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—It came down to seconds and one instinctive decision that may have saved the lives of country duo Sugarland and others at the Indiana State Fair where five people died when a stage collapsed.

Tour manager Hellen Rollens looked at the sky and decided to hold the band backstage. A minute later, 60 to 70 mph wind gusts toppled the roof and the metal scaffolding holding lights and other equipment on Saturday night in Indianapolis. It crashed into the audience, killing four instantly and fifth later at a hospital. Dozens were injured, some critically.

When they heard the deafening boom of the stage crashing, Sugarland and crew hit the ground and took cover against a wall, thinking it was going to collapse on top of them. At some point, they made it out of the dust and debris

and converged on their tour bus.

"There was no running out anywhere," Sugarland manager Gail Gellman told The Associated Press on Monday. "No one knew what happened. It was just the moment when your eyes get big."

Gellman said others felt it was safe to go on stage, but Rollens ultimately acted on her intuition.

"As a tour manager, it's super important to understand what the weather conditions are when you play outside. We've always talked about not putting the band on during wind, lightning or heavy rain," said Gellman, who was in Las Vegas with another client that night.

"Everybody was standing in a prayer circle getting ready to go onstage, and Hellen, as she was walking down the ramp, the stage fell. So her decision to hold them for literally a minute saved

every band member and crew's life."

The calamity has deeply touched Sugarland members Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush.

Nettles said in a statement that she watched video of the collapse on the news "in horror" and was "moved by the grief of those families who lost loved ones." She said she was also "moved by the great heroism" of fans who ran toward the stage to help rescue the injured.

Gellman met up with Nettles on Sunday and has watched her struggle to cope since then.

"There are moments I can see great clarity in her eyes, and there are moments I can see her tears well up so much that I just don't know what to do," Gellman said. "She's just processing and wants to encourage people to be together, to support each other."

Bush went home to be with his children

in Georgia.

Gellman strongly believes it was the weather and not a staging problem that brought down the Indiana State Fair structure. She said it will not dictate how she guides her acts in the future.

"I would pose the same question to every band that goes out there, Keith Urban, Kenny (Chesney). We all tour during the summer. We all play outside. We're all cognizant and very aware of what we hang and what we do," she said. "We have restrictions and requirements (from each venue), and we stand by every single one of them."

Sugarland's elaborate set for their "Incredible Machine" tour was destroyed in the collapse. They canceled their Sunday show at the Iowa State Fair, but are "hoping and preparing" to perform as scheduled in Albuquerque, N.M., Thursday.

Move over Santa, Gaga is taking over the workshop

NEW YORK (AP)—Christmas is getting a makeover—Lady Gaga style: The singer and her team are going to reinterpret Santa's workshop and put it on display at Barneys.

She'll get an entire floor

and take over the coveted windows starting in mid-November at the retailer's flagship Madison Avenue store, Mark Lee, Barneys CEO, announced Monday. There will also be a collection of Gaga's

Workshop gift items that will raise money for a charity of her choice.

Campaign visuals, including a cartoon rendering of Gaga with long blue hair and a sparkly red jumpsuit, will be used

to decorate shopping bags and other packaging, and will be featured on the company's website.

Barneys' typically nontraditional windows are a popular stop for holiday shoppers.

Beyonce showcases her dominance at concert

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—With 16 Grammys, millions of records sold, several defining hits and a superstar husband, Beyonce has nothing to prove.

But sometimes, even queens need to show what it means to be royalty. And on Sunday night, Beyonce arrived at the Roseland Ballroom to give fans and critics alike a reminder that she remains the head diva in the music world. She made her case to a select group of fans one rump-shaking move at a time.

"This show is going to be a little different," Beyonce told the standing-room crowd at the show's outset. "I just want to have a good time."

But she clearly had more on her agenda for Sunday's concert, the first of a four-night run at the famed concert-dance hall. While she usually performs for audiences of around 20,000, Beyonce downsized at Roseland for a sold-out crowd of about 3,000 to promote her new album "4," which has received critical acclaim and gone gold since its June release, but has not dominated sales and radio charts as her previous three solo albums, all multiplatinum successes with multiple hits, did.

The album's release came at a critical time for Beyonce, with the 29-year-old firing her father and longtime manager Matthew Knowles and taking control of her own career, amid the increasing chart pre-eminence of competing acts such as Lady Gaga and Rihanna. With the initial slower-than-usual start for her latest album, there's been discussion about whether her career is heading in the right direction.

Sunday's concert was Beyonce's dazzling rebuttal to all that talk: She put her track record up for display along with



In this July 1, 2011 file photo, Beyonce performs on ABC's "Good Morning America," in New York.

her new material and a subtle but undeniable message that she is not to be doubted, or counted against. Dressed in a shimmering gold minidress, she gave fans a history lesson of how Beyonce became Beyonce, from her early days as the star of Destiny's Child to her reign at the top of the charts with such hits as "Crazy in Love" and "Single Ladies."

She kicked things off by reaching deep into the past to do a song by one of her idols—Michael Jackson's "I Wanna Be Where You Are." Like Jackson, Beyonce started singing

as a child, and like Jackson, she became the undisputed star of her group. "I Wanna Be Where You Are" was a song Destiny's Child once sang for a recording contract audition that ended unsuccessfully. Beyonce noted that the setback didn't stop them—a recurring theme for her concert, and her career.

Throughout the first half of the show, Beyonce ran through the chart-topping hits that came from her pen such as "Independent Women," and said they were often inspired by her critics. Before launching into "Survivor," she told the crowd about

all the jokes lobbed at Destiny's Child and their ever-changing personnel.

"This song was the defining moment of our career," she said, noting the constant criticism she received at the time. "It actually inspired me." Later, she recalled how her record company wasn't a fan of her solo debut, "Dangerously in Love."

"They told me I did not have one hit song on my album," she said of the album that contained such hits as the title track and "Baby Boy."

"I guess they were kind of right: I had five," she boasted, before launching into a smoldering, slow version of the album's biggest hit, "Crazy in Love."

Backed by her all-female band, Beyonce reaffirmed her role as a peerless entertainer with her full-throated, soulful soprano and killer dance moves, in her signature stilettos. While she spent the first half the concert running through her life story (including her romance with husband Jay-Z) and her achievements, the second half was devoted to the future, courtesy of "4."

She said the album was about "being brave, managing myself ... giving myself artistic freedom to make real music for you." That freedom resulted in an album that showcased her romantic, torch-song persona with her bootylicious, dance-groove side. Though she didn't sing every song on the album, she sang most of them, from the Kanye West-produced "Party" to the girl-wronged anthem "Best Thing I Never Had" to infectious, marching-band inspired "End of Time."

"I searched the world, and found myself," she declared.

She ended the night with the song "I Am Here," a celebration of having left a lasting legacy—a point she underscored at Roseland to perfection.

Man suspected in Hilton stalking to stand trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who once asked Paris Hilton to marry him and has been arrested twice outside homes owned by the socialite must stand trial for felony stalking, a judge ruled Monday.

James Rainford appeared to be obsessed with Hilton and his alleged actions gave the hotel heiress good reason to be afraid, Superior Court Judge Jessica Silvers said.

"It's very clear from all these incidents that you are obsessed with Paris Hilton," Silvers told Rainford after a 90-minute hearing. "This is more personal, and it is scary."

Rainford, 36, was previously convicted of battery against Hilton's former boyfriend Cy Waits, who was hit in the head outside a courthouse earlier this year.

Rainford did not react after Silvers' ruling and only spoke quietly with his attorney during the hearing.

Rainford's most recent arrest came after a July 4 encounter in which paparazzi alerted authorities he was outside the heiress' beach house.

Defense attorney Craig Renetzky argued during the hearing that Rainford had never directly threatened Hilton, and that she had never left her home during either incident that led to his arrests.

His actions, including hitting Hilton's ex-boyfriend and shoving a security guard in October, were not directed at the socialite herself, the lawyer said.

"The only thing he's apparently ever done to her is to propose to her," Renetzky said.

Hilton politely refused. She did not attend Monday's hearing.

Prosecutor Wendy Segall called four law enforcement officers to testify about their dealings with Rainford after his arrests or their conversations with Hilton.

Sheriff's Detective

Rodney Wagner said Hilton was "afraid for her safety as well as her family, her friends around her."

Rainford remained jailed in lieu of \$150,000 bail and was told to return to court on Aug. 29 for an arraignment. No trial date has been set.

Anthony McCartney can be reached at <http://twitter.com/celebritydocketA> judge says a man charged with stalking Paris Hilton must stand trial and called his actions toward the socialite scary.

Superior Court Judge Jessica Silvers rejected arguments by suspect James Rainford's attorney that his client posed no direct threat to Hilton.

The 36-year-old Rainford has been arrested twice outside Hilton's homes. One incident came on July 4, when paparazzi alerted authorities he was outside the heiress' beach house.

Rainford previously was convicted of battery against Hilton's former boyfriend Cy Waits, who was hit outside a courthouse earlier this year.

Hilton did not appear in court. Four law enforcement officers testified about their interactions with Rainford after he was found outside the homes.

Rainford remains jailed and will return to court on Aug. 29 for arraignment.

Hilton



Reid tweets she was married in Greece

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tara Reid is a married woman.

The 35-year-old actress announced on Twitter that she was wed over the weekend.



Reid

In a post on her official Twitter page Saturday, she wrote, "Just got married in Greece I love being a wife." Earlier that day,

she tweeted that she was engaged.

Reid wrote in a separate post that her husband's name is Zack Kehayov. She also posted a photo of a tropical beach scene with the caption "life is perfect" and another of her in a bikini with the caption "loving life."

Reid is best known for her roles in "The Big Lebowski" and "American Pie."

A call to Reid's manager on Monday was not immediately returned.

Hilary Duff and husband expecting first child

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hilary Duff is pregnant.

The 23-year-old actress announced on her website Sunday that she and her hockey-player husband, Mike Comrie, are expecting their first child.

She wrote that she and Comrie celebrated their first wedding anniversary over the weekend, and "We also want to share the exciting news that.. BABY MAKES THREE!!!"

She said they are "extremely happy and ready to start this new chapter of our lives" and thanked her fans for their support.

Duff rose to fame as the star of the Disney Channel's "Lizzie McGuire" and recently appeared on "Gossip Girl." Comrie most recently played for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

In this May 11, 2011 file photo, actress Hilary Duff, right, and her husband Mike Comrie arrive at an Evening of "Southern Style" presented by The St. Bernard Project and the Spears Family in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP



Woman with husband and lover wants one big happy family

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Sometime ago, you printed a letter from one of your readers who was upset over her son's polyamorous relationship. I didn't respond then, but now that my triad is ready to come out to my boyfriend's family (we are out to mine and to my husband's—family), I feel the need to address this lifestyle in your column and ask your advice.



Dear Abby

My husband and I have been together 10 years. We started out as swingers. When we met my now-boyfriend, it became apparent that it was going to be more serious than "play" partners. Our particular arrangement is a "V" triad, meaning I am involved with two (husband and boyfriend), but they are not involved with each other.

My boyfriend is extremely important to us in every way. We all work together to make a very smooth-running, loving household.

I want you and your readers to know that this IS a viable relationship with love, respect and, most important, open communication. This kind of relationship—or any, for that matter—is doomed without it.

An estimated half-million people in the United States are part of polyamorous relationships. We're not freaks in need of counseling, but people who realize that love can grow and that there is an alternative to monogamy.

Abby, I would like to get some tips from someone who doesn't readily accept this life or even know it's out there. My boyfriend's family is conservative and they know he lives with a married couple. We've all spent time together, and I think they like me. Of course, they don't know I'm romantically involved with their son.

What's the best way to tell them about our triad? We want them to know this isn't the end of the world and that I love him very much. I'd appreciate any advice from you or your readers on this. Until we're out of the closet, please sign me...

NOWHERE AND EVERYWHERE

DEAR N AND E: Because you're looking for input from someone who "doesn't readily accept this life," you have come to the right place. You didn't say how long your boyfriend has been living with you and your husband, but if it has been any length of time and his parents know he isn't involved with anyone else, it's possible they already have some suspicions.

Because they are conservative, if I were you I wouldn't shatter their illusions. I can almost guarantee they won't embrace you for it. If you feel you MUST disclose the information, then do it in the same way that you have explained it to me. But don't expect them to jump for joy.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: At what age does a person become a senior citizen? There has been much discussion about this in our family. I looked forward to turning 50 and becoming a "semi-sexy senior." AARP starts asking us to join BEFORE 50.

BILL IN ARKANSAS

DEAR BILL: Yes, it does. It's called recruiting. Eligibility for senior discounts varies depending upon the establishment offering them, and there's no limit to the age one can be "semi-sexy" as long as you are healthy, willing and able.

When I was invited to join the AARP, I decided to defer becoming a senior citizen as long as possible. With the retirement age now approaching 70, it appears the government is taking its lead from me.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds)

AMC, Sony reach deal for 'Breaking Bad' finale

NEW YORK (AP)—The AMC network and producers of its popular "Breaking Bad" series about a chemistry teacher gone bad have agreed on making a fifth and final season of the show.

Production on the final, 16-episode run will begin early next year and hasn't been scheduled for air.

Negotiations with series maker Sony Television had report-

edly been tense, with Sony even contacting other networks to see if they'd be interested in picking up the show if AMC bowed out. The cable network, with another costly and popular series in "Mad Men," was looking to keep expenses down and had been seeking a shorter run of episodes.

Producers may have gained leverage with the strong perfor-

mance of the series in its fourth season this summer. The season debut on July 18 had the series' highest ratings ever, and overall "Breaking Bad" has 28 percent more viewers this season than it had the last, the Nielsen Co. said.

Actor Bryan Cranston has won three Emmy Awards for his portrayal of lead character Walter White, who uses his chemis-

try knowledge to become a drug kingpin after receiving a cancer diagnosis.

"This is a great gift to me and my wonderful writers," said Vince Gilligan, series creator. "It's knowledge which will allow us to build our story to a satisfying conclusion. Now, if we don't manage to pull that off, we've got no one to blame but ourselves."

Charlie Sheen takes batting practice at Chase Field in AZ

PHOENIX (AP)—Charlie Sheen got some batting practice then asked for ice for his elbow before an Arizona Diamondbacks-New York Mets game at Chase Field.

Sheen later watched the Sunday game from a suite. Pictures showed his right elbow wrapped with a bandage.

Sheen had a pre-existing elbow injury that flared up, Diamondbacks President Derrick Hall said Monday.

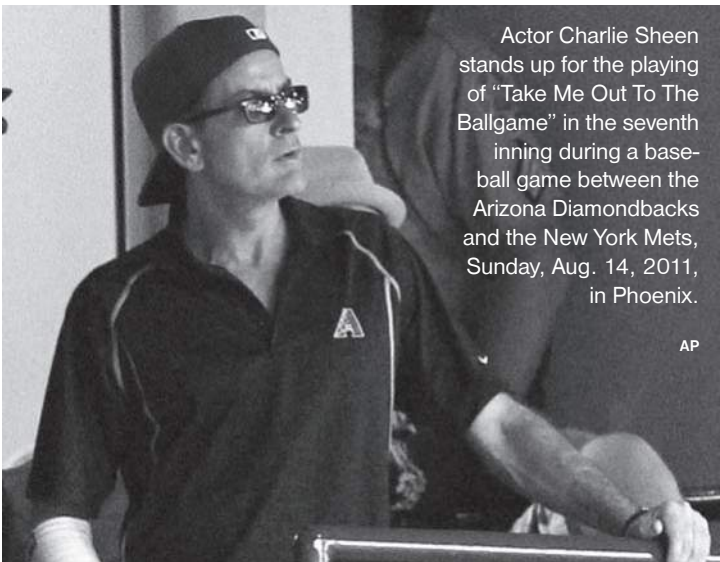
It was the team's understanding

that Sheen is trying to get back into shape for a possible sequel to the "Major League" movies, Diamondbacks spokesman Casey Wilcox said.

However, Sheen publicist Larry Solters said he wasn't aware of any "Major League" sequel but he didn't necessarily rule it out.

Former major league player Todd Zeile had asked if he and Sheen could take batting practice.

They hit balls for 30 minutes before the stadium gates opened.



Actor Charlie Sheen stands up for the playing of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" in the seventh inning during a baseball game between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the New York Mets, Sunday, Aug. 14, 2011, in Phoenix.

AP

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

TLC cancels 'Kate Plus 8'; last show airs Sept. 12

NEW YORK (AP)—TLC says it is canceling "Kate Plus 8." The reality specials focusing on Kate Gosselin, her twin daughters and set of sextuplets morphed into a weekly series in its second season. But TLC announced Monday that its final episode will air Sept. 12. The show was spun off from the wildly popular "Jon & Kate Plus 8," which co-starred the youngsters' father, Jon Gosselin, at their home in Wernersville, Pa. Their marriage dissolved, and the couple divorced in 2009. By the end of its run, including "Jon & Kate Plus 8," the series will reach the 150-episode mark. TLC says

it hopes to check in with Kate Gosselin and the family periodically with future specials.

Hugh Dancy to star in Broadway's 'Venus in Fur'

NEW YORK (AP)—Hugh Dancy has been tapped to star opposite Nina Arianda when "Venus in Fur" hits Broadway. Producers said Monday that Dancy will be in Manhattan Theatre Club's production playing a playwright. He has appeared in HBO's "Elizabeth I" and Showtime's "The Big C." Performances begin Oct. 13 at the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre on 47th Street. The show will run until Dec. 18. The play by David Ives made its

world premiere off-Broadway in January 2010. In the play, an actress' audition for a new play based on an erotic novel gets emotional and kinky. Dancy made his Broadway debut in the 2008 Tony-winning revival of "Journey's End." He returned to the New York stage in the 2009 production of "The Pride." He is married to actress Claire Danes.

Jeffrey Ash, Broadway ad man and producer, dies

NEW YORK (AP)—Jeffrey Ash, a theatrical advertising executive who later became a successful producer for shows on Broadway, off-Broadway and in London's West End, has died. He was 65.

Publicist Shirley Herz said Monday that Ash died Aug. 8 at his home in Manhattan. Although no cause of death was immediately known, Ash had long suffered from an autoimmune disorder. As an ad man, Ash helped represent such original Broadway shows as "A Little Night Music," "Pippin," "Pacific Overtures," "Annie," "Evita," "Glengarry Glen Ross," "Nine," "La Cage Aux Folles" and "M Butterfly." As a producer, he found success with the off-Broadway hit "Other People's Money" in 1989. He went on to produce the 2002 Broadway revival of "The Crucible" and the revival of "Finian's Rainbow" in 2009, among many others.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

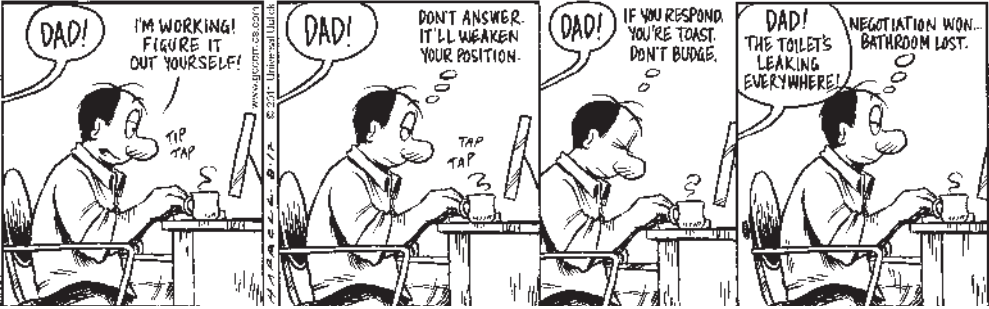
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



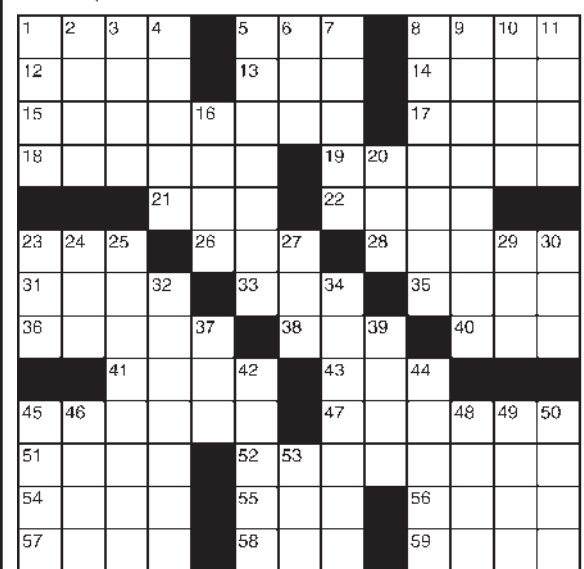
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Neighborhood
 - 5 List-ending abbr.
 - 8 Food
 - 12 Donated
 - 13 Islander's neckwear
 - 14 Huron or Michigan
 - 15 Eave, e.g.
 - 17 Wife of Geraint
 - 18 Mensa member
 - 19 Old sayings
 - 21 Superlative ending
 - 22 Nevada city
 - 23 Part of the load for 47-Across
 - 26 That guy
 - 28 Cut at an angle
 - 31 Clay-rich soil
 - 33 Two-timer
 - 35 Show-room sample
- DOWN**
- 11 Makes two into one
 - 16 "Be quiet!"
 - 20 Society newbie
 - 23 Priestly garment
 - 24 Extinct bird
 - 25 Seder time
 - 27 Chart
 - 29 Ostrich's cousin
 - 30 High shot
 - 32 The 3 in 3 - 2 = 1
 - 34 Sadden
 - 37 Varnish ingredient
 - 39 Penniless
 - 42 Picture
 - 44 Expire
 - 45 "Hi, sailor!"
 - 46 "— Las Vegas"
 - 48 Comical
 - 49 Wife of Osiris
 - 50 Catch sight of
 - 53 Bigwig, for short

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mark Salling, 29; Donnie Wahlberg, 42; Sean Penn, 51; Robert De Niro, 68.

Happy Birthday: You can easily put two and two together to come up with the right move, answer or reaction. No matter what comes your way or who tries to outmaneuver you, your reflexes will be difficult to beat. You will be challenging, competitive and in control. You will brew high energy, plenty of romance and lots of intrigue, no matter where you go. Your numbers are 5, 9, 13, 24, 29, 31, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Push harder and pursue an event that you find challenging. You are up for a good time and must surround yourself with friends, fans and lovers. Boredom will be your enemy, so plan a fun-filled day. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you don't understand something, open up a conversation that will allow you to see the big picture. Jumping into something unaware of the consequences will be your downfall. Good fortune doesn't necessarily mean more money. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's what you do for others that will count now. Helping a friend, relative or your community will enhance your reputation and lead to an interesting proposal. Promote your creativity. Making your place a warm and welcome haven will enhance intimacy. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't feel pressured to make a decision. Take your time and make sure that whatever you do, it is right for you. Emotions will escalate and

conflict is likely if you aren't adamant about what you do and do not want. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Divide your day carefully. Focus on what you do for a living and how you can enhance your skills and income. Listening will help you gather information, putting you in a powerful position to negotiate. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Go over your personal papers and make sure you have everything in order. A financial problem will occur if you spend too much on your home and family. Restrictions and discipline can be a good thing. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't argue when there is so much to do. Develop your ideas and creative skills so you can put them to better use. A change in the way you feel about someone can alter a decision you need to make. Favors will be granted if you ask. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Changes are good only if you make them for the right reason. Ulterior motives can be expected. Rethink your plans until they suit your needs. Where there is a will, there is a way. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): News of someone or something that interests you will take you by surprise and motivate you to follow suit. A romantic adventure will do you good and help you make some pressing and vital decisions. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have to jump through hoops to get what you want. Dealing with a contractor or

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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making alterations to your home will result in problems. It is best to do the work yourself. A change in your relationship with a friend, neighbor or relative will result if you argue. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can change your life if you learn from your past. If you have learned your lessons well, you should be able to move forward with greater confidence and a better idea of whom you should have in your life. Love is highlighted. ****

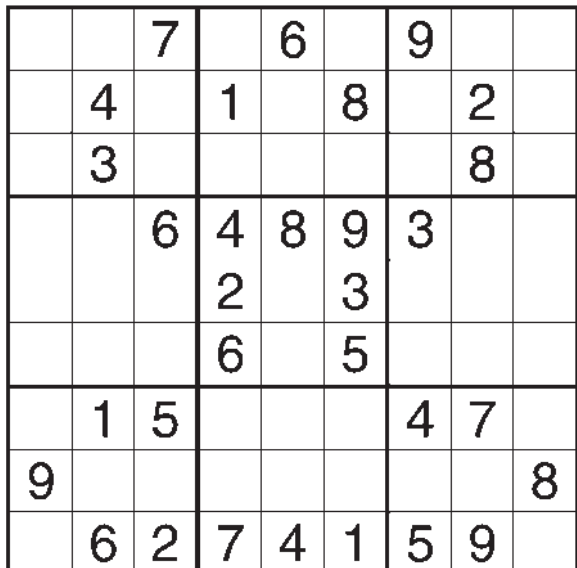
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Rethink your priorities. You may have to take a different approach to partnerships and to how you are going to deal with colleagues. Look for alternatives if someone gives you a hard time, but don't waste time arguing. ***

Birthday Baby: You are a performer, a competitor and a friendly individual who enjoys basking in the spotlight.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

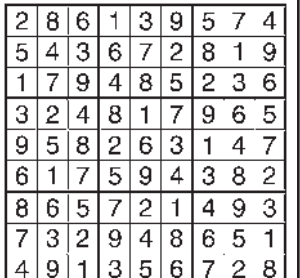
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ** 8/17

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PETER FALK (1927-2011) Solution: 5 letters



© 2011 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Link's on Facebook 8/17
Alyce, American, Angels, Anzio, Bride, Calm, Cast, Catherine, Coat, Columbo, Cookie, Cops, Corky, Cowslip, Detective, Exhibited, Faraway, Great Race, Icon, Jackie, Kings, Link, Lopez, Made, Marbles, Max, Mayo, Michael, Miracles, Next, Nico, Penelope, Pocketful, Point, Pops, Pressure, Romano, Roommates, Shark Tale, Sheri, The Balcony, Undisputed, Vibes
Yesterday's Answer: Structure
The word "structure" is spelled by the letters left over after the words in the puzzle have been circled. The letters left over are: S, T, R, U, C, T, U, R, E.

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DFS SAIPAN LIMITED has job openings for

Product Sales Manager, Beauty
Saipan Downtown Galleria

Primary function:
The Product Sales Manager (PSM) is the key people element to DFS' vision of exceptional people delivering exceptional product. As the primary conduit between the corporate merchant team and the customer, their role is to ensure a seamless customer experience aligned to the company vision while effectively driving sales. The PSM owns their brand/categories of business at store level and are responsible for ensuring promotions, product training, and overall floor presentations are being met through managing, mentoring and developing a cross-functional sales team. The PSM will bring to this role their energy, an ability to lead and correct while acting 'on their feet' and an intuitive sense to think ahead and problem solve.

The Product Sales Manager will display strong interpersonal skills, and have a genuine desire to lead and inspire their teams. Most importantly, they possess a passion for the brands and products they represent.

- Position Requirements:**
- Education: Bachelor's Degree in Management, Business or equivalent preferred, not essential
 - Critical Skills: Fluency in English and other languages as required by location
 - Work experience: 2+ years retail store experience required, leadership experience with sales and luxury merchandise highly desired

Team Lead, Sales
Saipan International Airport

Primary function:
As the Team Lead, Sales reports to the Product Sales Manager (PSM), this is a key role in the delivery of the DFS' vision of exceptional people delivering exceptional product. They inspire, lead and develop the sales team to deliver a seamless customer experience as exceptional people who are delivering exceptional product, building customer loyalty and relationships while delivering sales and productivity targets.

The Team Lead, Sales proactively coaches and updates the sales team regularly on opportunities for continuous improvement of skills and knowledge. They foster a service environment that empowers and develops a cohesive and focused team that passionately creates unique and memorable, luxury service experiences that builds our brand and customer loyalty and delivers sales. Like the PSM they report to, the Team Leader Sales possesses a passion for the brands and products they represent.

- Position requirements:**
- Education: Degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential functions.
 - Critical Skills: Strong Command of English language; fluency in other languages as required by location.
 - Work Experience: 1 – 2 team leadership experience within retail / service industry preferred



Demonstrates excellence in customer service at all times. Assist customers in selecting, purchasing, refunding merchandise on a daily basis. Completes all transactions in a professional and timely manner. Works cooperatively with co-workers to accomplish sales and service goals. Maintains display and presentation standards at all times.

- Position requirements:**
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 - Fluency in Japanese, Korean or Mandarin language speaking skills preferred.
 - Ability to work flexible hours, shifts including weekends, nights and holidays.
 - Understands the importance of first class customer service and team work, and enjoys working in a customer oriented environment.

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Applications are available at the reception area, 2nd floor of DFS Galleria Monday to Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

- Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
"This Notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"

August 3, 2011

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson, Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane, wish to announce that NMHC has revised its FY 2011 Annual Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Annual Plan encompasses the goals, objectives, and strategies of NMHC's Program and Housing Division and the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8). Comments may be directed to:

Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director
NMHC Central Office
P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950

Comments may also be faxed to (670) 234-9021. The Annual Plan is also available for public review and comment at NMHC's Central Office located on Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, as well as at the respective NMHC Field Offices on Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except on CNMI holidays. The deadline for the comment period is at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

/s/ **Joshua T. Sasamoto**
Corporate Director

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Thome's 600th homer highlights Minnesota win



DETROIT (AP)— Jim Thome hit his 600th career home run an inning after he hit No. 599 to help the Minnesota Twins outlast the Detroit Tigers 9-6 in the American League on Monday night.

The 40-year-old Thome became the eighth MLB player to reach 600, hitting a three-run shot off Daniel Schlereth in the seventh inning to give Minnesota a 9-5 lead.

An inning earlier, Thome reached 599 with a two-run homer off Rick Porcello (11-8).

Only seven hitters have hit more home runs than the burley Thome: Barry Bonds, Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth, Willie Mays, Ken Griffey Jr., Alex Rodriguez and Sammy Sosa.

Francisco Liriano (8-9) allowed five runs in six innings for the Twins and Joe Nathan earned his 10th save.

Before Monday's game, Thome hadn't homered since Aug. 4.

Yankees 7, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Missouri, Derek Jeter drove in three runs, including two with a triple in the sixth, to lead New York.

A.J. Burnett (9-9) allowed 10 singles and a walk over 5 2-3 innings, but they only resulted in three runs. The right-hander had been winless in 13 starts in August since signing a five-year, \$82.5 million deal with New York, going 0-8.

Brett Gardner added a pair of RBIs and Mariano Rivera got his 31st save for the Yankees.

Felipe Paulino (1-5) allowed five runs on five walks and eight hits in just 5 1-3 innings.

Rangers 8, Angels 4

In Anaheim, California, Nelson Cruz and Mike Napoli hit back-to-back homers and Michael Young added a two-run single during a six-run fifth inning to lead Texas over Los Angeles.

Ian Kinsler had four hits and scored three runs, and Josh Hamilton added an RBI double in Texas' fourth straight win.

Alexi Ogando (12-5) pitched eight-hit ball into the seventh inning for the Rangers, who have won nine of 11.

The Angels lost Garrett Richards to a strained groin muscle in the first inning of his second MLB start. Bobby Cassevah (1-1) gave up one run while pitching 2 2-3 innings in relief of Richards.

Orioles 6, Athletics 2

In Oakland, California, Robert Andino hit a bases-loaded double in the seventh inning and Josh Bell added a two-run single as Baltimore picked up a rare victory on the road.

Tommy Hunter (2-2) allowed two runs over 6 2-3 innings to earn his first win with Baltimore. The right-hander, who struck out three and walked one, had been winless in two starts since being acquired in a trade from Texas on July 30.

Matt Wieters and Mark Reynolds both homered for the Orioles.

Gio Gonzalez (9-11) gave up four runs and four hits with three walks for the A's, who have dropped four straight.

Mariners 6, Blue Jays 5

At Seattle, Mike Carp and Casper Wells hit back-to-back home runs in the eighth to lead the Mariners' comeback victory over Toronto.

Carp, who also homered in the third inning, has a 15-game hitting streak



Minnesota Twins' Jim Thome swings for his 600th career home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers Monday, Aug. 15, 2011, in Detroit.

and 17 RBIs in August — the most in baseball this month. It was his first two-home run game.

Eric Thames and Adam Lind had two-run home runs for the Blue Jays, and Brett Lawrie had a solo shot.

Tom Wilhelmson (1-0) earned his first MLB win by working a 1-2-3 eighth inning.

Jon Rauch (5-4) gave up one run on three hits in 2-3 of an inning to take the loss.

Braves 5, Giants 4

At Atlanta, Freddie Freeman hit a two-run single to lead the Atlanta's ninth-inning rally as the Braves beat the San Francisco Giants.

San Francisco closer Brian Wilson (6-4) gave up three hits and two walks in the ninth for his fifth blown save in 40 chances.

The Giants went ahead 3-2 after Nate Schierholtz hit a homer to right in the sixth. Mike Fontenot added an eighth-inning homer off Tim Hudson to make it 4-2 going into the ninth.

It was the Giants' first return to Atlanta since beating the Braves in the 2010 NL division series.

Mets 5, Padres 4, 10 innings

In San Diego, Scott Hairston drove

in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning as New York ended a five-game losing streak with a win over the Padres.

Lucas Duda and Josh Thole both had homers among their three hits, and Thole had three RBIs.

Manny Acosta (1-0) got the win after pitching the ninth. Jason Isringhausen allowed a walk and a single in the 10th before securing his seventh save in 11 chances this season and the 300th of his career.

Josh Spence (0-2) was credited with the loss after giving up the game-winning run in the 10th.

Pirates 6, Cardinals 2

In Pittsburgh, Ryan Doumit matched a career high with a four-hit game, including a three-run home run, as the Pirates beat St. Louis.

Doumit's homer in the fourth inning off Jake Westbrook (9-7) broke open a 1-1 game and helped Pittsburgh end its three-game losing streak.

Xavier Paul also homered and Neil Walker had two hits for the Pirates.

James McDonald (8-6) pitched 5 2-3 uneven innings to end his three-start winless streak. He allowed two runs and six hits while walking two and striking out four.

Cubs 4, Astros 3

At Houston, Geovany Soto had three hits and two RBIs and Kerry Wood earned his first save in over a year as Chicago won for the 12th time in 15 games.

Rodrigo Lopez (4-3) pitched an effective 5 1-3 innings, allowing two earned runs.

Henry Sosa (0-2) allowed four runs on seven hits with six strikeouts in six innings for Houston, which has dropped seven in a row and 10 of its last 11.

Rockies 7, Marlins 4

In Denver, Jason Giambi hit a three-run homer to cap a four-run ninth inning as the Rockies rallied for a victory over Florida.

The Rockies, who had been 0-55 this season when trailing after eight innings,

were down to their last out when Dexter Fowler hit a double off Leo Nunez (1-3). Carlos Gonzalez followed with a double to right and Troy Tulowitzki was walked intentionally before Randy Choate relieved Nunez.

Giambi then hit his 11th home run of the season for the win.

Brewers 3, Dodgers 0

In Milwaukee, Randy Wolf pitched eight effective innings and the Brewers turned a triple play as part of a superb defensive effort in a victory over the Dodgers.

Ryan Braun, Jonathan Lucroy and Corey Hart each homered for the Brewers, who have won 17 of 19.

Milwaukee converted four double plays and threw out two runners at home, including one on the triple play.

Wolf (10-8) allowed six hits and five walks in eight innings.

Gerrit Cole and Pirates agree to \$8 million deal

NEW YORK (AP)—UCLA pitcher Gerrit Cole was among 22 of 23 first-round draft picks beating the deadline to sign, with the top selection in June's amateur draft agreeing late Monday night to a minor league contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates that includes an \$8 million signing bonus.

"It's essentially the largest signing bonus ever given an amateur player," Pirates general manager Neal Huntington said. "Sometimes, it's more advantageous for a player to take a minor league contract with a bonus that can be spread over nine months than a major league contract that would be spread out over four years."

Cole turned down an \$8.5 million major league contract running through 2016. His agent, Scott Boras, said the pitcher projects to earn an additional \$1.4 million under this deal.

"We feel Gerrit is going to be in the major leagues in a year," Boras said.

Only 10 first-round picks—and just one among the first nine players—had agreements with one hour left before the midnight deadline. By the end of the night, the only first-round pick without a deal was right-hander Tyler Beede, taken by Toronto with the 21st pick. Because he failed to sign, the Blue Jays will receive an extra-first round selection after the 21st choice next year.

Virginia left-hander Danny Hultzen, the No. 2 pick, agreed to an \$8.5 million, five-year contract with Seattle that included a \$6.35 million signing bonus. Dylan Bundy, a high school right-hander selected fourth by Baltimore, got a \$6.25 million, five-year contract.

Among the lower rounds, the Chicago Cubs agreed to a \$1,275,000 signing bonus with California high school outfielder Shawon Dunston Jr., an 11th-round pick. His father was the No. 1 overall pick by Chicago in 1982. The Cubs also agreed to a \$375,000 bonus with seventh-round selection Trevor Gretzky, the baseball-playing son of hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky.

Dereck Rodriguez, son of the 14-time All-Star catcher Ivan Rodriguez, agreed to a \$130,000 deal with Minnesota. D-Rod was a sixth-round pick.

Boras was negotiating for the top pick for the third straight year after reaching agreements with Washing-

ton for pitcher Stephen Strasburg (\$15.1 million over four years) and outfielder Bryce Harper (\$9.9 million over five years).

Three years ago, Cole decided not to sign after the Yankees selected him with the 28th overall pick. He was 6-8 with a 3.31 ERA for the Bruins as a junior, but the Pirates decided his potential outweighed his latest statistics.

The deal was reached about 15 minutes before the deadline.

"There was an ebb and flow to them all night," Huntington said. "At times, everything seemed to be going really well and then there would be times where we seemed to be moving apart."

Pittsburgh also gave a \$5 million deal to second-round pick Josh Bell, a high school outfielder from Dallas who had said he was committed to attending the University of Texas.

"After the draft, we had the opportunity to sit down with Josh and his family and let him know what our organization is about and how we operate," Huntington said. "We made it clear that we would really like him to be part of our organization. We left with the idea that they were open-minded and that if we were able to reach a financial agreement that both sides were comfortable with that he would be willing to begin his professional career with us."

Boras also negotiated a \$7.5 million signing bonus for high school outfielder Bubba Starling with the Kansas City Royals, and a \$7.2 million, four-year major league contract for Rice third baseman Anthony Rendon with the Washington Nationals, a deal that would be worth up to \$10 million, including an option year. Starling was the fifth overall pick and Rendon sixth.

Boras' son, California high school third baseman Trent Boras, failed to reach an agreement with the Milwaukee Brewers. Trent Boras, a 30th-round pick, will attend the University of Southern California.

Scott Boras spoke with Brewers owner Mark Attanasio and general manager Doug Melvin in the hours before the deadline.

"We made the decision long ago that we wanted him to go to college," Scott Boras said. "The Brewers gave us every courtesy of working with him."

Umenyiora practices with Giants for first time



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Having given up his bid for a new contract, two-time Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora practiced with the New York Giants for the first time since training camp opened last month.

The 29-year-old Umenyiora worked with the first team defense on Monday, splitting snaps at right end with second-year pro Jason Pierre Paul.

Umenyiora declined to talk to the media during the player availability, but coach Tom Coughlin was happy to see him working out.

"I hope it's all behind me, that's all. I'm going on," Coughlin said after the two-hour workout at the Timex Performance Center. "He's here. He wants to work. He wants to be a part of the team. We certainly want him to be. We want it all. We don't want a part of it, we want it all. I hoping that's the way it is."

While Umenyiora is practicing for the first time since reporting to camp 17 days ago, he is not happy.

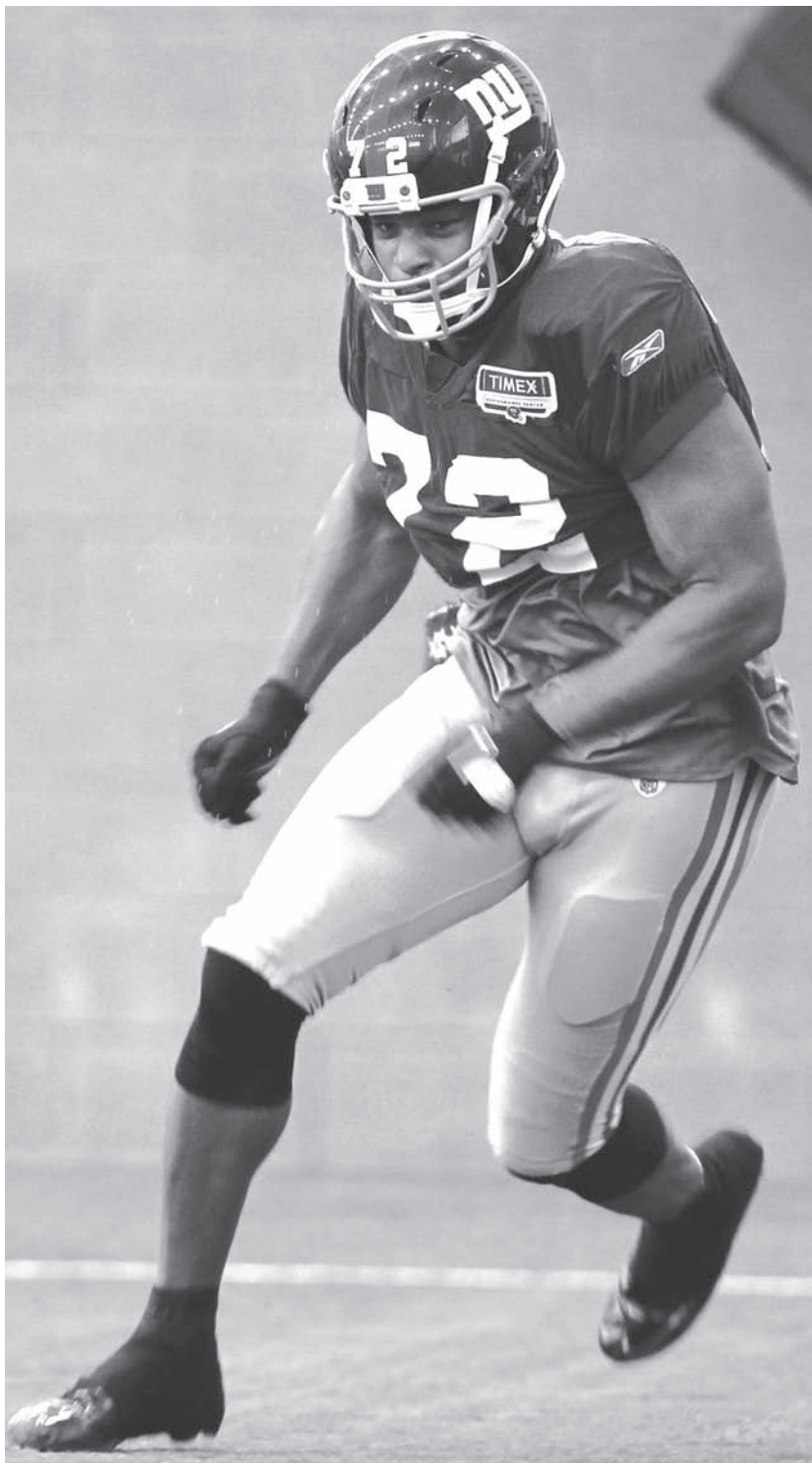
He maintains general manager Jerry Reese promised to rework the final two years of his contract and failed to do it. Reese offered the nine-year veteran a contract laden with incentives this year, but Umenyiora told The Associated Press in an email on Sunday that was unacceptable.

Umenyiora, who tied for the team high with 11 1-2 sacks and led the NFL with 10 forced fumbles last season, will play this season under the terms of his current contract. It will pay him \$7.1 million over the next two years.

Fellow defensive end Justin Tuck said Umenyiora was in good spirits Monday but he noted that did not mean his buddy was happy.

"Just because he is back on the football field, doesn't mean this saga is over," Tuck said. "Again, he is doing what he thinks is best for this football team and himself."

Tuck believes that Umenyiora will continue to work with the Giants to



New York Giants defensive end Osi Umenyiora practices with the team for the first time during NFL football training camp, Monday, Aug. 15, 2011, East Rutherford, N.J.

resolve his contract dispute, adding he does not think it will either affect how Umenyiora plays or how the team prepares for games.

Umenyiora, who has been bothered by a sore knee for the past 10 days, showed quickness during individual drills early in practice and held his own in 11-on-11 drills.

"He jumped right in there and tries to beat the ball like he normally does," Coughlin said. "It was good to see."

Pierre-Paul, who had two sacks in a preseason loss to Carolina on Saturday, wasn't upset sharing the right end job with Umenyiora.

"It makes the offense have a little hesitation and when we have all three of us out there in the Osi package, they don't know what to do," Pierre-Paul said. "So, it is good. Osi is back."

Teammates also said Umenyiora's situation was never a major problem. Quarterback Eli Manning said he was so focused on the offense, that he felt

Umenyiora's absence was only a minor distraction.

"I haven't been answering questions on it," Manning said. "It hasn't been a main concern. Right now, it's something that had to get worked out, but we had other things we had to worry about."

Cornerback Terrell Thomas said having Umenyiora back in the lineup will put pressure on opposing quarterbacks and make his life easier.

"He's been in meetings, been alert and not made a fuss about it," Thomas said. "He's been talking to the younger guys at practice and doing what he has to do. Hopefully, he comes back healthy and makes us stronger as a team."

Veteran defensive tackle Chris Canty was excited to have Umenyiora back on the field.

"He is a tremendous football player and a great teammate, so having him out here is going to be awesome for us," Canty said. "We are just putting more bullets in the gun."

Bucks hire Moncrief as assistant



MILWAUKEE (AP)—Bucks coach Scott Skiles said he learned more when he was a rookie in Milwaukee than he did in any other season when he played in the NBA.

That was Sidney Moncrief's team, and now the former teammates are together again on Skiles' coaching staff.

"Sidney was the leader of that group. It felt like the right time," Skiles said Monday. "Obviously, he's had NBA experience as a player, he's had NBA experience as a coach. He's been around our team, knows some of the things we do. It was just a good fit right now."

The 53-year-old Moncrief was hired as an assistant in a move that had been widely expected for weeks. Moncrief was an NBA assistant with Dallas (2000-03) and Golden State (2007-09), along with a stint as head coach of the Fort Worth Flyers in the D-League in 2006-07. He also spent one year coaching at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

In recent years, he's also has been running a basketball skills academy that focuses on fundamentals.

"Milwaukee was one of the very few places I wanted to coach, first of all. And I only want to coach for people I respect as coaches, and Scott Skiles certainly has those credentials," Moncrief said. "I've always worked for

myself and if I worked for anyone, I'd have to like them, like the city. Milwaukee certainly fits those criteria."

The five-time NBA All-Star played for 10 years in Milwaukee after becoming the fifth overall pick in the 1979 draft. He won the league's first two Defensive Player of the Year awards (1983-84) and is among the Bucks' leaders in points (11,594, third), games (695, second), free throws (3,505, first), rebounds (3,447, seventh), assists (2,689, second) and steals (874, third).

"I just want to make a contribution," Moncrief said. "We want the Bucks to be at a level that they recall years ago. I'm here to assist Scott Skiles and the rest of the coaching staff in reaching that level. I think the timing is right."

The Little Rock, Ark., native replaces Kelvin Sampson, who took a coaching position with the Houston Rockets. Sampson was extremely close with 21-year-old point guard Brandon Jennings, who went from prep to overseas professional before being drafted 10th in the 2009 draft.

Skiles couldn't talk about Moncrief's responsibilities directly because of the ongoing NBA lockout, but said Moncrief would fit well with his staff that includes Jim Boylan, Joe Wolf, Bill Patterson and Anthony Goldwire.

"I'm really excited," Moncrief said. "Milwaukee is very special to me ... It's a no-brainer being back."

Culpepper works out as 49ers look for veteran QB

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Daunte Culpepper threw passes to tight end Nate Lawrie once again, on a little bigger stage this time than during their stint together last year with the United Football League's Sacramento Mountain Lions.

Culpepper worked out for some 30 minutes Monday in front of the San Francisco 49ers brass—and Lawrie called it a crisp, impressive session.

"I was catching balls for him during the workout, and he was throwing it around pretty good. He's spinning it well," said Lawrie, who signed a one-year deal with San Francisco on Sunday. "Daunte's got a ton of experience. He's got a lot of success in this league. And the guy can play, he can throw the ball. That's what it all boils down to."

The Niners apparently believe Culpepper can still bring it despite a year in the minors.

They were considering adding Culpepper to their quarterback mix after coach Jim Harbaugh said Saturday there's a need for a veteran backup behind projected starter Alex Smith and rookie Colin Kaepernick. Harbaugh's offense was ineffective in a 24-3 exhibition loss at New Orleans on Friday night—and he is determined to be bet-

ter come Saturday's home preseason game with the Oakland Raiders at Candlestick Park.

Tight end Delanie Walker made it sound like Culpepper had already joined the team. The 49ers had not made any kind of announcement other than Harbaugh acknowledging Sunday that Culpepper would get a tryout. Culpepper wasn't on the field when practice began.

"I'm just happy that we got him. He can help the team out with his expertise and give the quarterbacks some pointers on what he's seen, and help Alex and Colin out," Walker said before Monday afternoon's practice. "I think it's going to be a good look for us and I'm glad to have him out here."

The 34-year-old Culpepper, who was still at team headquarters for lunch, last played in the NFL for the Detroit Lions in 2009. He started five games and played in eight total. In 11 NFL seasons, he has passed for 24,153 yards and 149 touchdowns.

A three-time Pro Bowler, he spent his first seven seasons with the Vikings, then one year each with Miami and Oakland before two years in Motown.

"Just experience, knowing the game and having been in it," receiver Ted

Ginn Jr. said of Culpepper's potential positive influence. "It's something that we can't worry about. Whoever steps in there, you should be right for him."

Smith, the 2005 No. 1 overall draft pick out of Utah, is still the front-runner to win the starting job—though Harbaugh hasn't named him the top guy yet. In recent days, Harbaugh has called it a competition between Smith and second-round draft pick Kaepernick.

Culpepper could provide guidance to both QBs—and some insurance to a franchise eager to finally turn around its fortunes. San Francisco hasn't had a winning season or reached the playoffs in eight years.

Lawrie appreciated Culpepper's veteran presence and humility in the UFL last season. They ran what Lawrie referred to as a "hybrid" version of the West Coast offense, so he sees Culpepper having no problems picking up Harbaugh's playbook in a hurry.

"He'll fit right in," Lawrie said. "He's friendly, outgoing and connects well with players, which is a great asset for a quarterback. He has played for years and done a lot of great things. He knows football and that's pretty clear. It comes from taking a lot of snaps."



NBA BRIEFS

Lawson signs deal with Lithuania club

DENVER (AP)—Ty Lawson will join Zalgiris Kaunas of Lithuania, signing a deal that will allow the Denver Nuggets point guard to return to the NBA if the lockout ends. Paulius Motiejunas, the general director of Zalgiris Kaunas, confirmed the deal Monday night. A message was left for Lawson's agent. Lawson will team up with Sonny Weems, a former Nuggets guard who signed with the international squad last month. Unlike Lawson's deal, Weems agreed to a contract without an NBA opt-out clause. Weems played last season for Toronto. The speedy Lawson averaged 11.7 points and 4.7 assists last season for the Nuggets. The Denver Post first reported

the story. Lawson told the paper, "It's the best situation for me to go out there."

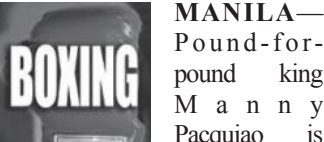
San Antonio forward Green signs deal with Slovenian team

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (AP)—San Antonio Spurs forward Danny Green has signed with Slovenian basketball league champion Union Olimpija. The 24-year-old Green will be reunited with former college teammate Deon Thompson. The two helped North Carolina win the 2009 NCAA title. Olimpija did not mention financial terms of the deal Monday or whether Green signed an out clause to return to the NBA after the lockout. Green averaged 5.1 points in eight games last season for the Spurs.

Pacquiao prediction: Mayweather tiff will happen next year



By **RONNIE NATHANIELSZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



MANILA—Pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao is confident he will face Floyd Mayweather Jr. sometime next year—even if the latest condition set by the undefeated American looks like yet another reason to dodge the Filipino ring icon.

“I will fight Mayweather next year,” said the Sarangani congressman, who plans to fight two or three more times before hanging up his gloves.

Pacquiao made the statement in an interview with the Inquirer and Australia’s KO Boxing television host and promoter Peter Maniatis at the Sofitel Hotel on

Thursday evening.

Pacquiao, who was special guest and inducting officer at a Manila Rotary Club District 101 event where Liza Elorde was installed as president, is confident his promoter, Top Rank chief Bob Arum, can successfully negotiate an eagerly awaited megabuck fight between two of the sport’s biggest stars.

Previous negotiations had collapsed over the insistence of the Mayweather camp on random, Olympic-style drug protocols.

But Pacquiao and Arum have now made public statements that they will agree to the tests demanded by the Mayweather camp, eliminating what has been the only stumbling block to the fight.

Or so, Team Pacquiao thought. Arum, however, revealed that

Team Mayweather has set yet another condition for the fight to push through.

“Mayweather’s crazy father (Floyd Sr.) says ‘yes’ but he (Pacquiao) is not allowed to train in the Philippines. This is bizarre,” Arum said.

“We are certainly not the impediment for that fight to happen,” Arum had earlier told the Inquirer. “We will do whatever we can to make that fight happen. But you can’t chase this guy because if you do, you’ll accomplish nothing.”

Pacquiao could be done with the sport in the next two years and has set his sights on concentrating on his duties as a congressman.

Pacquiao said he expects another difficult fight in his trilogy with Juan Manuel Marquez on Nov. 12 in Las Vegas.

Nonito Donaire’s ultimate goal: 6 world titles

By **RONNIE NATHANIELSZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Nonito Donaire Jr. has one good reason to make sure he goes unscathed in his scheduled Nov. 6 bout against a yet undetermined opponent.

He has to look good for his wedding, which takes place six days later.

“[It] is no problem as long as I don’t get injured,” said Donaire. “Actually I am excited that I will fight and that it will be followed by my wedding.”

He said this would put “plenty of pressure especially on me in the training camp. I must not get hurt so I will need to train very hard.”

Donaire who up to now doesn’t know who his opponent will be said “I don’t pick my opponents but I prefer the very best so it would drive me

to train very hard because if I meet the best it motivates me to be at my best in training. If that happens I know nobody can beat me.”

He said “in my heart and in my mind, body and spirit I know I will give it everything.”

Donaire, who returned to the fold of Top Rank, said he is eager to fight the winner of the October clash between champions Toshiaki Nishioka of Japan and Rafael Marquez of Mexico as promised by Arum. He said the planned January 2012 showdown with the winner “will be a great fight. For me to face the winner is exciting because they are both champions and they are both great fighters.”

Donaire, who is ranked No. 3 in the pound for pound rankings of the prestigious Ring Magazine, said “if my opponent is good I enjoy the fight

even more.”

Noting that he is looking at a fourth world title at 122 pounds against the winner of the Nishioka-Marquez battle, Donaire said he had “no problem at the weight” although he had enjoyed the food in the Philippines and had gone up to 145 pounds but had come down to between 133-134 pounds.

Donaire said he will train at the Undisputed Gym in San Francisco under former world champion Robert Garcia and at times would train at the Oxnard Gym.

He said it was convenient to train in the Bay Area of California not because of the availability of good sparring partners but more because his training staff, including his strength and conditioning coach, his speed trainer and his nutritionist, were all there together.

Belau Masters meeting tomorrow



The Belau Amateur Softball Association is calling all interested teams for the Masters league to attend a meeting tomorrow.

The meeting is set for 6pm

at the pavilion across the JP Center Building in Beach Road.

Details about the Masters league and other important matters will be discussed at the meeting. The league aims to open the 2011 season on Aug.

28 at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Meanwhile, Belau is requesting members of SaiPal to attend tomorrow’s meeting to discuss their participation in a goodwill tournament in Guam in October. **(PR)**

REZNE

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CNMI record and then slowed down a bit in the last 50m, timing in at 35.71 seconds.

Switzerland’s Killian Bossard topped the qualifying heat with a time of 1:04.68, while New Zealand’s Gleen Snyders had the fastest time in the field at 1:00.87 and led seven others to the finals. The 100m breaststroke event featured 55 swim-

mers with Wong placing 38th.

Wong’s record-shattering swim came two days after he failed to surpass his PBT and CNMI mark in one of his favorite events—the 200m breaststroke. The Marianas High School graduate competed in the qualifying heat in the 200m breaststroke last Sunday and clocked in at 2:27.17, which was about four seconds (2:23.35) behind the CNMI record which he logged just last month, also in China during the 14th FINA

World Championships.

After his first event in Shenzhen, Wong took a one-day rest and the break seemed to have paid off for the Commonwealth bet, as he returned to the pool and posted his first record in the Games.

The CNMI swimmer will also be at the pool today and this time he will join two qualifying races, the 100m butterfly and the 200m individual medley. At stake in this morning’s competition is the 24-year record of

Alex Screen in the 100m butterfly (59.00 seconds/Aug. 25, 1987). Wong owns the CNMI mark in the 200m IM, recording 2:10.18 during the World Championships in Shanghai, China, last month.

Wong’s last event in Shenzhen will be tomorrow’s 50m breaststroke race. His PBT and also the CNMI record in 50m breaststroke event stands at 31.62 seconds and was posted on July 28, 2009 during the World Championships in Italy.

BALAKRISHNA

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(75), Cruz (75), Jim Mitchell (75), Krishnan (76), Tony I. Deleon Guerrero (77), Jung Eun Teack (77), Mariano Fajardo (77), Manny C. Sablan (77), Edward Manibusan (78), Frank Castro (78), Matt Chagualaf (78), Norbert Sablan (79), Art Deleon Guerrero (80), Joe Demapan (82), Larry Deleon Guerrero (84), Jess Castro (85), and Frances Sablan (95).

Jang posted the most birdies in the 21-player field with his four, while Martin Sablan, Krishnan, and Fajardo collected one each. In the longest drive

contests, Manibusan prevailed on the par 4, 360-yard hole No. 11 and Jang won on the par-4, 404-yard No. 6.

SGA’s next tournament will be the September Ace at Coral Ocean Point with the date and tee-off and check-in times to be announced later.

Winners in the 12 monthly competitions will participate in the season-ending SGA Ace of the Aces Tournament. Balakrishna is one of them, joining early qualifiers Tony I. Deleon Guerrero (January), Cruz (February), Nick C. Sablan (March), Manibusan (April), Ray M. San Nicolas (May), Joe I. Sablan (June), and Danny Quitugua (July).

CNMI

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the singles and doubles events and the latter joining only the doubles competition.

Miller, who qualified for his first Junior ITF event after making it to the finals of the boys U15 division of the 2011 Pacific Oceania Junior Cham-

pionships last week, had a tough assignment in the opening round of the boys U18 contest. He was paired against Australia’s Andrew Harris, who is seeded second in the 32-player field. The Australian player went on to sweep Miller, 6-0, 6-1.

In the doubles competition, Miller teamed up with Jones and the two CNMI bets bowed

to Australia’s Jacob Grills and James Sheppard, 0-6, 3-6.

Minor was also scheduled to play in the girls U18 doubles and teamed up with Vanuatu’s Lorraine Banimataku. The CNMI-Vanuatu tandem was set to duel the top-ranked pair of Myers and New Zealand’s Emily Fanning in the first round yesterday.

Minor and Jones both played

in the U18 division of the POJC and finished fifth and fourth in their respective age groups. The two U18 players and Miller suited up for the North Pacific squad with eight other CNMI players, who then were scheduled to compete in the Oceania Plate tournament after the POJC concluded last Friday. Results of the Oceania Plate were unavailable at press time.

THAI

From Page 28

minutes after Weiss’ accident.

MEN’S Wild Bill’s 9, Docomo 5

In the first men’s division match, Wild Bill’s snapped Docomo’s winning streak at three after nailing a 9-5 victory.

The win gave Wild Bill’s a 6-1-0 record at the end of the first round of the double round-robin league and kept the team in a tie for first place with Ko-

rean Futsal Team.

Jeeraphong Thoensaket continued to do wonders for Wild Bill’s, as he erupted for six goals in the victory. He logged four in the first half, as he outscored the entire Docomo crew, who tallied only two goals. Steve McKagan and Trey Dunn had one goal apiece for Docomo in the first half.

Then in the second half, Docomo’s Ropati Tonuu posted a hat-trick, but it was not enough to bring his team back into the game, as Thoensaket answered with a pair, while Lar Wongpanya also scored twice.

Docomo dropped to a 3-2-2 card and was bumped off in third place by Red Inter (3-1-2).

Korean Futsal 4, Thundercats 3

Korean Futsal Team completed the first round of the double round-robin league with a 4-3 win over the Thundercats.

The Thundercats finished the first round winless in seven games, but gave Korean Futsal one of its toughest matches in the men’s division.

The usually explosive Korean Futsal was ahead by only one,

2-1, after the first 25 minutes of play. Siblings Dae Won and Dae Min Jeon scored one goal each for Korean Futsal in the opening frame, while Joel Fruit put the Thundercats in the scoreboard in that period.

Timothy Tawanpiy and Eric Devin Atalig had one goal apiece for the Thundercats in the second half, but still failed to give their team the elusive first win, as Korean Futsal also connected on two goals to save the victory. Jan Wan Rhee and Jin Koo Cho scored for Korean Futsal in the second half.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES	
MLB STANDINGS	
AMERICAN CONFERENCE	
East Division	
	W L Pct GB
Boston	73 46 .613 —
New York	73 46 .613 —
Tampa Bay	64 55 .538 9
Toronto	61 60 .504 13
Baltimore	47 72 .395 26
Central Division	
Detroit	64 57 .529 —
Cleveland	60 57 .513 2
Chicago	60 60 .500 3 1/2
Minnesota	53 67 .442 10 1/2
Kansas City	50 72 .410 14 1/2
West Division	
Texas	70 52 .574 —
Los Angeles	65 57 .533 5
Seattle	53 67 .442 16
Oakland	53 68 .438 16 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
East Division	
Philadelphia	78 41 .655 —
Atlanta	71 51 .582 8 1/2
New York	59 62 .488 20
Washington	57 62 .479 21
Florida	56 65 .463 23
Central Division	
Milwaukee	71 51 .582 —
St. Louis	65 57 .533 6
Cincinnati	59 62 .488 11 1/2
Pittsburgh	57 63 .475 13
Chicago	54 68 .443 17
Houston	38 84 .311 33
West Division	
Arizona	68 53 .562 —
San Francisco	66 56 .541 2 1/2
Colorado	57 66 .463 12
Los Angeles	55 65 .458 12 1/2
San Diego	54 69 .439 15
Yesterday's Games	
Atlanta 5, San Francisco 4	
Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 2	
Chicago Cubs 4, Houston 3	
Milwaukee 3, L.A. Dodgers 0	
Colorado 7, Florida 4	
N.Y. Mets 5, San Diego 4, 10 innings	
Minnesota 9, Detroit 6	
N.Y. Yankees 7, Kansas City 4	
Baltimore 6, Oakland 2	
Texas 8, L.A. Angels 4	
Seattle 6, Toronto 5	
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	

Kim sinks hole-in-one in XGA fundraiser

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Junior golfer Jeong Yun Kim took top honors in last Saturday's X-clusive

Golf Association fundraiser held at Coral Ocean Point, dropping a hole-in-one on hole No. 14 in the process.

A healthy turnout of 74 golfers participated in the fundraiser, which was coupled with XGA's Ace of the Month event.

Kim came to the turn with a four-over par 40, but thanks to her ace midway through



Jeong Yun Kim poses with X-clusive Golf Association president Dave Cepeda during the awards banquet held at his house in Dandan after last weekend's fundraiser golf tournament held at Coral Ocean Point.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the back nine, she finished the round just one-over with a gross 73.

Kim won \$250 for topping the field after her 70.6 low-net adjustment and also took home an additional \$50, a one-night stay at Fiesta Resort & Spa, a free round of golf at COP, and a free dinner for two at the Saipan Grand Hotel for the hole-in-one.

Kim graciously donated the \$50 back to XGA to help support member Juan Cepeda's medical referral to Hawaii.

"It was a great turnout and a great day for golf. I want to thank Coral Ocean Point and everyone again for support-

ing my brother John [Cepeda]. We are truly grateful for all the help...and congratulations to Miss Kim for her hole-in-one. She really impressed everyone on Saturday, not just because of the ace, but she is very young and won the event with a minuscule 2.4 handicap," said organizer Dave Cepeda.

Notably, Kim also took third prize in the Tournament of Champions' ladies flight just last weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Greg Castro scratched a pair of 44s for an 88 gross score and ended up placing second after the handicap adjustment with a net 71.2; he won \$150.

Joey Dela Cruz came in third place, pacing Kim with a 40 on the front nine before finishing the back with a 37 for a 7-over par 79; he was issued a 71.8 after the handicap adjustment and won \$100.

In addition, Albert Palacios

won \$200 and was declared XGA's August Ace of the Month with a net score of 75. Palacios grossed an 87, hitting the turn with a 46 and coming to the clubhouse with a 41 on the back.

Dela Cruz won an additional \$120 for placing second and John Reyes netted a 73.6 for third place and won \$80. Reyes came to the turn just two-over par with a 38 and finished the back with a 44. Both Dela Cruz and Reyes are former ace winners, and are thus ineligible for the honor.

The Ace of the Month field consisted of 24 XGA members and the tournament used a double peoria format. The awards banquet was held at Dave Cepeda's house after the conclusion of the event.

The date and venue for next month's XGA Ace of the Month event is still being determined.

Contact Dave Cepeda at 285-0931 for more information.

Gamecon 2011 to go down Aug. 27

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Over \$1,500 in cash and a multitude of other prizes are up for grabs along with a year's worth of bragging rights in the CNMI's largest video game competition, Gamecon 2011, which is set for Aug. 27 at Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V.

This year's Gamecon will feature Halo Reach, League of Legends, and NBA Live.

NBA Live was added to the list after receiving so many requests from last year's participants and will be formatted with two-person teams.

League of Legends is formatted with teams of five, while this year, organizers opted not to feature a Halo Reach team category, therefore island slayers will have to go it alone among various Rumble Pit and King of the Hill variants.

The entrance fee is set at \$20 per person and since all three competitions will commence simultaneously, participation in



Eleven-year-old Steven Rasa Fojas outlasted a rumble pit of nine to be crowned Gamecon 2010 and Back to School Expo's Halo 3 individual champion last year at Club V in the Saipan Grand Hotel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

multiple categories cannot be guaranteed. Participants will also receive a free Scoops coupon with registration.

The event will start at 11am and continue all day through 8:30pm.

Audience tickets cost \$5 apiece and box lunches prepared by Saipan Grand Hotel

will also be available for purchase in the lobby.

Children under 7 years old are not allowed in the gaming venue and parental consent is required for all minors before being allowed to play the games.

Last year, Steven Rasa Fojas and Matt Igitol were crowned, respective Halo 3 and Call of

Duty II Modern Warfare individual champions.

Team Awesome made up of Patrick Reyes, John Faller, Brendon Larenz, Judah Basaldua and Kelvin Magsiposi won the Halo 3 team event, while a no-name group made of Justin Cabrera, Jose Pangelinan, James Phillips, Austin Roberto and Jude Sablan took home Call of Duty team honors.

In addition, K-Team's Steve Ha, Sin Yeop Kang, Ji Hyun Kim, Ji Seung Lee, and Gee Hyun Lim won first place in the Heroes of Newerth team category.

Registration is ongoing and sign-up sheets can be obtained at Megabyte (235-6111) on Beach Road; the Glimpses of Saipan office located on the second floor of the Transpacific Business Center (Gualo Rai); at Safety First (Gualo Rai); or at Megazone (Gualo Rai).

Contact Beach Road Magazine account manager Susan Marchitti at 483-3145 or call Glimpses at 235-7645 for more information.

GBL meeting this Friday



Garapan Basketball League hopes to tip off its upcoming IT&E Cup in late September this year at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMC Proa routs Hi-5, 45-21

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Hi-5 romped NMC Proa, 45-21, in Monday's 19th Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League U19 matchup held at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Hi-5's Ariel Urbano drained a couple of 3-pointers right out of the gate that helped his team build an early, 12-4, lead in the opening eight minutes.

Hi-5 pressed ahead, 21-12, at halftime as Urbano added three more points in the second quarter.

Proa continued to struggle after the break as Hi-5 amassed a daunting, 37-17, advantage heading into the final canto. Hi-5's Michie Yoshida tallied eight markers in the third period.

Proa's Josephus Aguilar

managed his team's only four points at crunch time as Hi-5 cruised to victory.

Urbano finished with a game-high 14 points, while Aguilar led Proa with eight.

The official game schedule is still being finalized. U19 games are played daily in Gualo Rai starting at 4:45pm.

The U15 and U12 seasons are expecting to start up this weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

Contact league commissioner Abner Venus at 483-9650 for more information.

Hi-5 44 – Urbano 14, Yoshida 9, F Machahito 6, Atalig 4, Dautin 4, G Machahito 4, Salem 4, Tadifa 2, Sablan 1

NMC Proa 21 – Aguilar 8, Jera Habijan 4, Madreo 3, Damatan 2, Jeri Habijan 2, Lapuz 2

Scoring by quarters: 12-4, 21-12, 37-17, 44-21.



Hi-5's Nevin Salem, right, pulls up for a shot against a NMC Proa defender during their game in the Rotary caging last Monday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The newly assembled Garapan Basketball League is holding an

initial meeting for its upcoming IT&E Cup season this Friday from 6pm to 7pm at the Community Development Center in Garapan. The presence of all coaches and managers of interested teams is requested.

GBL's inaugural season is expected to tip off some time this late September.

"The GBL aspires to be the CNMI's premier outdoor basketball league and we are confident that our format will provide a high-level of competition," said GBL's Rey Perez. Perez also assured that the league would promote camaraderie and basketball safety at all times.

Perez also organized the QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup for the past two seasons where he has provided numerous com-

munity service projects at the Garapan Basketball Court in that span, teaming up with Rollers Basketball Club youth group in the process.

GBL organizers are shooting to have nine teams for its 18-and-older men's division, in addition to six teams for a separate U16 junior division, which is intended as a developmental program for youth athletes.

The league is open to players of all nationalities in both divisions.

Its first season is slated to conclude in December and will resume for a second spell in April 2012. GBL also plans on holding a third edition, starting again in September of next year.

Contact Rey Perez at 989-6759, email gbl670@gmail.com, or visit GBL's Facebook page for updates and more information. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

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homer highlights
Minnesota win

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rezne crushes CNMI 100m breaststroke mark



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne Wong, seen here in a local race in 2009, shattered the CNMI mark in the 100m breaststroke race after competing in a qualifying heat in the 2011 Summer Universiade yesterday in Shenzhen, China.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After a so-so debut in the 2011 Summer Universiade, CNMI swimmer Rezne Wong re-deemed himself with a record-breaking swim in the 100m breaststroke race yesterday at the Natatorium of Universiade Center in Shenzhen, China.



Wong timed in at 1:07.66 seconds in the qualifying heat for the 100m breaststroke event, chopping off more than one second from his personal best time and resetting the CNMI mark. The 20-year-old swimmer held the previous CNMI record in the 100m breaststroke event at 1:08.79, which he logged on July 26,

2009 during the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

The University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer was on Heat 3 and finished sixth out of nine swimmers, beating two Chinese bets and one from Netherlands Antilles. Wong completed the first 50m of the race in 31.95 seconds, which is only .33 of a second behind his PBT and

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3 CNMI netters join Junior ITF event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Thea Minor, Christian Miller, and Rafael Jones earned slots to the main draw of the Air Pacific Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2011 being played in Lautoka, Fiji.

Minor was entered in the girls U18 division of the B2 tournament under the Junior ITF Circuit. A grade B2 event awards 120 Junior ITF points to the champion, 80 to the runner-up, 60 to semifinalists, 40 to quarter-finalists, 25 to the losers in the Last 16, and 10 to the losers in

the Last 32.

The 15-year-old CNMI bet joined the 32-player draw and was pitted against the No. 5 seed Celine Lenertz of Australia in the first round of play last Monday. Minor lost in straight sets, 1-6, 0-6, faltering in her other bid to move past the opening round.

Last year, Minor played in the same tournament and fell to second-ranked Abbie Myers of Australia, also in two sets, 1-6, 0-6.

Miller and Jones had their debuts in the Oceania Closed with the former entered both in

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rafael Jones, seen here during the PIC tournament last year, joined the Air Pacific Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2011 in Lautoka, Fiji.

Thai Team shuts out Mellow Yellow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Thai Team moved two notches up in the team standings in the women's division of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League after blanking Mellow Yellow, 2-0, on Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Pratoom Stoffer drilled both goals for Thai Team, hitting one each in the first and second half.

Thai Team now has a 3-3-0 win-loss-draw record, climbing up from sixth place to a tie for fourth place with Red Team. Mellow Yellow dropped to a 2-5-0 card and fell to seventh spot in the eight-squad field.



Thai Team goalie Catherine Perry throws the ball during their game against Mellow Yellow in the women's division of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League on Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E Blossom holds the last spot with its dismal 0-7-0 card. It remained winless in the double round-robin competition after forfeiting its game against Kulet's Team.

IT&E Blossom decided to call it a night and handed over the win to Kulet's Team when one of its players—Amy Weiss—fell on the floor after stepping on the ball and sustaining a minor cut on her head.

Kulet's Team was ahead, 2-0, when the match was called off in the second half. Vanessa Pritchard and Cleo Nening logged one goal apiece for Kulet's Team with the former scoring first in the opening frame and the latter finding the back of the net in the second half a few

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Balakrishna notches SGA August Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Steve Balakrishna claimed the Saipan Golfers Association August Ace title after besting 21 other members in the monthly tournament played last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Balakrishna tamed the west course of the Kagman facility after carding a 3-over par 39 on the front nine and an even par 36 on the

back. Deducting his six handicap, Balakrishna ended up with a net 69 for a two-stroke win over Juan L. Babauta.

The newly crowned SGA August Ace also shot two birdies and won the closest to the pin contest on the par-3, 180-yard hole No. 7. Other closest to the pin winners were Jose I. Sablan (No. 3), John Cruz (No. 17), and Das Krishnan (No. 13).

Jose I. Sablan also placed third in the monthly tournament with his net 72, followed by Martin Sablan (73), Steve Jang

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Balakrishna